Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

The NATIONAL FOOD SITUATION

NFS-70

1955 OUTLOOK ISSUE
FOR RELEASE OCT. 29. P. M.

In this issue:
World Food Situation
Introduction of the Index of Supply - Utilization of All Agricultural Products

AMS

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, October 22, 1954

SUMMARY

Record food supplies are in prospect for the coming year. Consumer demand for food is expected to continue strong. Per capita consumption of food in 1955 will likely equal that of the current year, only slightly under the 1946 record.

During the late fall and winter months of 1954-55, large supplies and the lower prices now prevailing will encourage higher consumption rates than in late 1953 for pork, butter, poultry and eggs, several major fresh fruits, and processed fruit juices. On the other side of the picture, the only major items expected to be in smaller supply are fresh vegetables, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and some of the canned fruits. Along with the smaller supplies have come higher prices for these items.

(Continued on page 2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

Continued from cover page -

Although the outlook for overall food supplies in 1955 is quite similar to the 1954 food situation, there will undoubtedly be some shifting in the makeup of our total food supply. Judging from current harvests, livestock numbers and other indications, we may expect next year to consume somewhat more per capita of the following foods: lard, oranges, chicken, eggs, rice, and frozen fruits and vegetables. Some reductions are likely for turkey, canned fruits and vegetables, grapefruit, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and peanuts. We may have some small shifts in consumption rates within such groups of foods as dairy products, meats, and fats and oils other than lard, but the per capita rates for total dairy products, meat, and fats probably will approximate those of 1954.

Retail food prices have declined slightly since July because of the larger supplies of some major foods. Prices in 1955 may average at about the current level. Present indications are that consumer purchasing power for food will stay high and that exports of farm food products may be larger next year. No particular change in total takings of food by our Armed Forces is expected.

Table 1.- Volume of farm marketings and home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1935-39 average, 1947-53, and preliminary estimates for 1954, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers 1947-49=100)

Item	1935-39 average	1951	1952	1953	1954 Prel. 2/	1954 as a percentage of	
						1935-39	1953
Marketings and home consumption of all farm commodities 3/	73	101	104	109	109	149	100
Food grains 4/	54	77	97	98	89	165	91
Vegetables 5/	85	99	95	99	98	115	99
Fruits and nuts 6/	81	107	101	97	105	130	108
Sugar crops	107	93	93	105	107	100	102
Total food crops 7/	72	91	97	99	95	132	96
Meat animals	72	104	108	111	114	158	103
Poultry and eggs	64	118	123	125	132	206	106
Dairy products	88	99	100	106	108	123	102
Total food livestock 8/	75	105	109	112	116	155	104
Food marketings and home consumption	74	102	105	109	111	150	102
Civilian per capita food consumption	91	99	101	102	103	113	101

1/ Index of volume of farm marketings and home consumption supersedes the series on volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption.
2/ Estimates for 1954 are based on calendar-year quantities estimated as of October 1.
3/ Food and nonfood items.
4/ Wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat.
5/ Truck crops for fresh use and processing, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, dry field peas, and mung beans.
6/ Except peanuts.
7/ In addition to the crops listed above, includes peanuts, peppermint, popcorn, spearmint, and vegetables grown under glass.
8/ Also includes honey, but excludes turkey hatching eggs.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES

Retail food prices this fall are expected to average a little lower than a year earlier. With consumers' spendable income likely to continue at a high level, civilian demand for food probably will be about as strong as it was last fall. However, food supplies will be a little larger this fall than last, especially those of the livestock products.

Prospects for the year 1955 are that retail prices for food will average close to those of the present year. Total supplies of food next year may be record large, even exceeding those of 1954, if weather is normal. Counterbalancing will be continued strong consumer demand and the relative rigidity of marketing charges for food.

Current indications point to a high level of economic activity next year. Consumer incomes and spending for food and other consumer goods and services are likely to be at least as high as this year's levels.

Military procurement of food in 1955 is expected to approximate that of this year, but exports may be up some. The Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 is expected to encourage increased exports of major farm products next year.

NUTRITIONAL REVIEW 1/

The nutritive value of the per capita food supply has changed very little in the last 6 years (table 3). Estimates for 1954 and 1955 are practically identical with those for 1953. When compared with averages for the period 1947-49, the greatest change is small--a 4 percent decrease in Vitamin A value and ascorbic acid.

Peak years for these two nutrients were in the mid-forties. But as a result of lower consumption of fruits and vegetables, averages for Vitamin A and ascorbic acid have declined 17 and 15 percent respectively since 1945. They are at about the same levels in 1954 as in 1935-39. Although these are the nutrients for which there is the greatest margin compared to recommended dietary allowances, they are also two of the nutrients most often found low in diets of many groups in our population. Partially offsetting the lower ascorbic acid values is the fact that about a third of the total now comes from citrus fruit and tomatoes as compared to a fourth in 1935-39. These foods are not only excellent sources of Vitamin C but they can be counted on to retain it better than other foods that usually undergo cooking or other preparation for eating.

Relatively stable averages for many of the nutrients tend to conceal some of the changes that are taking place in the nutritional character of the national diet. For example in 1935-39 grain products furnished 29 percent of the total protein; in 1953, only 21 percent. Meat, poultry, and fish contributed 26 percent in 1935-39 but 32 percent in 1953. This is part of a long-term trend associated with declining consumption of grain products and increases in some of the livestock products. In the last

1/ Prepared by Human Nutrition and Home Economics Research.

Table 2.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1951-53, and estimates for 1954, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1951	1952	1953	1954 Prel.	1954 as a percentage of 1935-39	1954 as a percentage of 1947-49	1954 as a percentage of 1953
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Meats (carcass weight) - Total	125.3	146.4	135.8	144.0	153.6	156	125	107	102
Beef	54.8	64.6	55.2	61.2	76.6	79	144	122	103
Veal	8.1	9.6	6.6	7.1	9.5	10.2	126	106	107
Lamb and mutton	6.7	4.8	3.4	4.1	4.6	4.6	69	96	100
Pork (excluding lard)	55.7	67.4	70.6	71.6	62.9	62	111	92	99
Fish (edible weight) - Total	10.9	10.3	10.9	11.0	10.8	10.9	100	106	101
Fresh and frozen	5.3	5.9	6.3	6.3	5.9	2/	---	---	---
Canned 3/	4.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.3	2/	---	---	---
Cured	.8	.6	.6	.6	.6	2/	---	---	---
Poultry products									
Eggs - number	296	380	396	405	400	412	139	108	103
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	13.2	18.5	22.2	23.1	23.1	23.6	179	128	102
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	2.1	3.2	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	214	141	102
Dairy products									
Total milk fat solids	31.2	29.2	28.0	27.3	26.9	27.3	88	93	101
Total nonfat milk solids	39.6	46.6	46.7	47.6	46.9	46.9	118	101	100
Cheese	5.5	6.9	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.6	138	110	103
Condensed and evaporated milk	16.5	19.8	18.0	17.4	17.2	16.5	100	83	96
Fluid milk and cream	330	359	352	352	350	352	107	98	101
Ice cream (product weight)	9.8	18.5	17.1	17.6	17.7	17.1	174	92	97
Fats and oils - Total, fat content 4/	44.8	41.8	41.6	43.6	44.0	44.2	99	106	100
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	16.8	10.5	9.5	8.6	8.6	9.0	54	86	105
Margarine (actual weight)	2.8	5.5	6.5	7.8	7.9	8.0	286	145	101
Lard	10.9	12.2	12.1	11.7	11.2	10.4	95	85	93
Shortening	11.6	9.5	8.9	10.0	10.1	10.9	94	115	108
Other edible fats and oils	6.4	7.2	7.6	8.6	9.4	9.2	144	128	98
Fruits									
Fresh - Total	137.1	130.3	114.4	110.5	107.0	104.5	76	80	98
Citrus	48.5	53.9	44.4	43.6	42.7	40.4	83	75	95
Apples (commercial)	30.2	25.2	25.4	21.1	20.1	20.4	68	81	101
Other (excluding melons)	58.4	51.2	44.6	45.8	44.2	43.7	75	85	99
Processed									
Canned fruit	14.8	18.1	18.6	20.6	20.8	20.2	136	112	97
Canned juices	3.8	16.0	14.4	13.7	13.8	14.7	387	92	107
Frozen (including juices)	.8	3.2	4.7	6.5	7.0	7.6	950	238	109
Dried	5.7	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.2	74	100	105
Vegetables									
Fresh (total commercial) 5/	139	150	143	144	145	146	105	97	101
Canned	29.6	38.5	41.2	40.9	41.8	41.0	139	106	98
Frozen	6/.4	2.9	4.1	5.1	5.3	5.5	1,375	190	104
Potatoes	128	112	108	99	103	104	81	93	101
Sweetpotatoes	21.3	12.3	7.2	7.0	8.2	6.9	32	56	84
Dry edible beans	8.7	6.6	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.7	89	117	100
Dry field peas	.6	.6	.7	.5	.5	.6	100	100	120
Sugar, refined	96.7	93.5	96.1	96.1	96.8	7/96.3	100	103	99
Grains									
Corn products:									
Cornmeal	22.8	13.4	12.6	12.3	12.0	12.0	53	90	100
Corn sirup	7.6	9.8	8.9	8.6	8.7	8.7	114	89	100
Cornstarch	1.3	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	138	100	100
Corn sugar	2.7	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	144	93	98
Breakfast cereals	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	94	100	100
Hominy	1.4	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	186	93	100
Oat food products	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	89	100	100
Barley food products 8/	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	93	81	100
Wheat:									
Flour 9/	157	135	131	130	126	125	80	93	99
Breakfast cereals	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	94	100	100
Rye flour	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	64	100	93
Rice, milled	5.7	4.8	5.7	5.2	5.7	5.2	91	108	91
Beverages									
Coffee 10/	13.9	18.0	16.3	16.5	16.7	15.8	114	88	95
Tea	.66	.57	.64	.62	.66	.68	103	119	103
Cocoa beans	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.8	88	95	93
Peanuts (shelled)	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.1	95	93	91

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas, and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year and rice which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish, such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Computed from unrounded data. 5/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Based on the U. S. domestic requirements of 8,200 thousand tons (raw value) as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. 8/ Barley used for food products in terms of malt equivalent. 9/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 10/ Green bean basis.

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

45 years the proportion of the total protein from animal sources has increased from about half in 1909-13 to two-thirds at the present time. Compared with many countries of the world, this proportion represents a relatively high quality of diet.

Another trend of nutritional significance is the increasing prominence of the nutrient fat in the national diet. The estimated quantity of fat in 1954 is 16 percent higher than in 1909-13 and the percent of calories from fat has increased from 32 to 40 percent. Little information is available on human requirements for fat. But it is believed that diets in which 20 percent of the calories come from fat would provide amply for body needs.

Enrichment and fortification of grain products continue to make an important contribution to the nutritive value of diets especially in thiamine. Approximately one-fifth of the thiamine furnished by grain products comes from enrichment. With declining consumption of these foods it would be difficult to get recommended amounts of thiamine were it not for enrichment.

Table 3 .- Nutrients available for civilian consumption per capita per day, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1952, 1953, and preliminary estimates for 1954, with percentage comparisons 1/

Nutrient	Unit	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954 Preliminary	1954 as a percentage of 1935-39	1954 as a percentage of 1947-49	1954 as a percentage of 1953
Food energy	Cal.	3,270	3,230	3,240	3,210	3,230	99	100	101
Protein	Gm.	90	94	96	95	96	107	102	101
Fat	Gm.	132	140	145	143	144	109	103	101
Carbohydrate	Gm.	440	406	398	396	397	90	98	100
Calcium	Gm.	.93	1.03	1.04	1.00	1.03	111	100	103
Iron	Mg.	14.4	17.0	16.8	17.0	17.0	118	100	100
Vitamin A value	I.U.	8,200	8,300	7,800	7,900	8,000	98	96	101
Thiamine	Mg.	1.45	1.90	1.91	1.85	1.88	130	99	102
Riboflavin	Mg.	1.88	2.33	2.33	2.34	2.36	126	101	101
Niacin	Mg.	15.8	19.5	19.6	19.9	20.0	127	103	101
Folic acid	Mg.	.132	.133	.133	.134	.134	102	101	100
Ascorbic acid	Mg.	118	121	114	116	116	98	96	100

1/ Data computed by Human Nutrition and Home Economics Research on the basis of estimates of apparent per capita consumption (retail basis), including estimates of produce of rural and urban home gardens, supplied by the Division of Agricultural Economics, AMS. No deduction has been made in nutrient estimates for loss or waste of food in the home or for destruction or loss of nutrients during the preparation of food. Data for iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin include the amounts of those nutrients added to prepared cereals, white flour and bread.

Estimates of the folic acid (one of the B-vitamins) content of the food supply have only recently been included in the calculations as values in foods have become available. Vegetables and fruit are the largest contributors, providing about 45 percent of the total. Meat, poultry and fish, dry beans and peas and nuts, and grain products also make important contributions. How well the present dietary levels meet human requirements is not now known.

COMMODITY REVIEWS

Meats

The outlook for meat supplies for the remaining weeks of 1954 differs from a year earlier because of the substantial increase in pork. This results from the 13 percent larger spring pig crop in 1954. Beef and veal supplies have increased seasonally but will provide for little if any increase over the record rate of consumption in the last 3 months of 1953.

Supplies of lamb will likely be down moderately in the final quarter this year from a year earlier.

The expected gain in meat consumption rate this fall compared with a year earlier will bring total consumption for the year 1954 as a whole about 2 pounds per person above the 1953 level of 153.6 pounds. This would be nearly 20 pounds per person more than the postwar low reached in 1951 and the highest rate of consumption in the last 46 years.

Imports of meat during the rest of the year and for the year as a whole will be much the same as a year earlier. Exports in 1954 will likely be a little smaller than in 1953

The outlook is for retail prices of pork to be at their low of the year during the current period of heavy production and to be less than last fall. For beef, prices of better quality cuts will likely show considerable stability and be close to those of a year earlier. Prices of the medium and lower grades of beef may at times be above the low levels of last fall.

Next year may be the third consecutive one with supplies of meat at the high level of around 25 billion pounds and consumption by civilians at the rate of 153-156 pounds per person. It may also be the third consecutive year that total supplies will include an unusually high proportion of beef and a low proportion of pork. With consumer incomes in 1955 likely to be close to those of this year, the demand for meat is expected to be about as strong and retail meat prices generally at about the same average as in 1954. The price spread between higher and lower grades of beef will continue wide and pork prices will not reach the high recorded in the spring of 1954.

Current prospects are that civilian consumption of beef per person in 1955 will run a little below the 79-pound rate estimated for this year. The sharp rise in cattle marketings, which began in 1953, is leveling off. Total beef supplies next year are expected to be about the same as in 1954. Although some reduction in breeding herds during 1955 is the most likely prospect, the rate at which producers choose to sell breeding stock, particularly cows, will have considerable effect on the beef supply. If range and pasture conditions are better than average in 1955, marketings will probably be less than the 1954 total. Adverse weather conditions could cause a much heavier sale for slaughter than now anticipated, with a corresponding increase in beef supplies and lower retail prices.

With relatively large feed supplies we may expect about as many cattle to be grain finished as in the past year. This means little change in the supply of the better grades of beef. During 1955 there will likely be less beef of the intermediate grades that come from grass steers and heifers but more cow beef.

Veal supplies are expected to be up next year and consumption by civilians may exceed slightly the rate of 10.2 pounds per person estimated for this year. The Nation's cow herd will be about the same size this January as last, and it will likely produce nearly as large a calf crop as in 1954. Moreover, a larger part of the calf crop is usually marketed for slaughter during the years cattle herds are being maintained or reduced. Hence, calf slaughter probably will be large, second only to 1944 slaughter. But supplies of veal per person will be below several years in the mid-1940's.

A decrease in production of lamb and mutton is anticipated for 1955, with a corresponding decline in consumption per person. Fewer sheep and lambs will be on farms and ranches at the beginning of the year, and herds are not likely to be reduced enough during the year to hold the sheep and lamb slaughter up to 1954 levels. Lamb will remain in relatively small supply, with consumption per person down about 10 percent from the 1954 rate.

Pork will be more plentiful next year than in 1954. Farmers' intentions for 10-12 percent more sows to farrow fall pigs than last year indicate an appreciably larger pork supply next spring than during the spring of 1954 when slaughter was unusually small. Less increase over 1954 is expected in the later months of 1955 because of a slowing in the rate of expansion of hog production. For the year 1955 as a whole consumption of pork per person will probably average a little higher than in 1954.

Relatively small changes are in prospect for the general level of retail meat prices in view of continued large red meat supplies and continued strong demand for meat. Prices are expected to average generally about the same next year as this, although changes in supplies indicate pork prices will be lower relative to prices of beef and lamb.

Fishery Products 1/

U. S. civilian consumption of fresh and processed edible fishery products during the next 5 to 6 months is expected to be close to the per capita rate of a year earlier. Supplies during this period are expected to be a little larger than in the corresponding months of 1953-54, especially if imports of frozen and canned fish continue at the rate of recent months. Retail prices of fishery products during the next several months may average a little lower than a year earlier. Not only will the somewhat larger supplies this fall and winter have a moderating effect on prices, but competition from meats and poultry products is expected to be much keener than last fall and winter.

Commercial landings of fishery products for sale in the fresh or frozen forms, now on a seasonal decline, probably will be close to those of a year earlier during the coming fall and winter months unless weather conditions alter the seasonal pattern of fishing operations. However, supplies are expected to be up some during the next several months because of larger cold-storage stocks this October 1 than last and the heavier imports in prospect for the next several months than a year earlier. Stocks of frozen fishery products in the continental United States on October 1 totaled 177 million pounds, up 14 percent from those of a year earlier. Imports of frozen fish fillets and blocks (used in producing "fish sticks") have been running at a much heavier rate this year than last, and prospects are that they will continue heavier well into the winter season.

Domestic supplies of canned fishery products through mid-1955, when the new pack season begins, probably will be at least as large as a year earlier. The packs of canned salmon and Maine sardines indicated for 1954 are a little larger than those of last year, and the pack of canned tuna, which has been running ahead of the 1953 pack, may set a new record this year. However, the pack of canned mackerel is down. The total pack is expected to be supplemented by heavier imports of canned fish in the next several months than in the corresponding part of 1953-54.

Through July 1954 imports of major species of canned fish were about 6 percent higher than in the same period of 1953, and prospects are that they will continue heavier than a year earlier into the coming spring season. During the first seven months of 1954 exports of major canned fish items totaled almost a fourth smaller than in the same period of 1953, and prospects are that they will continue at a lower level at least until the new packs become available in 1955.

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Poultry and Eggs

Supplies of eggs and poultry will be abundant for the remainder of 1954, and well into 1955. Large numbers of chickens and turkeys presently on farms assure continued record or near-record output (for the respective months) of broilers through January 1955, of turkeys for the same period, and of eggs through mid-year. Egg production reached its seasonal low in August this year and will rise each month until March or April.

Egg production is assured at a high rate through mid-1955, unless there is unusual culling of flocks; thereafter, replacement pullets hatched in the spring of 1955 will affect production. Although fewer pullets are expected from 1955 hatching, the effect of their prospective smaller numbers may be about offset by an extension of the long-time upward trend in the rate of lay per bird during the fall and winter.

On account of the relatively large production of eggs in the usual "low" period of the year, July-September, there has been little seasonal rise in egg prices so far. Egg prices are likely to show little if any rise over the next month or two, and are likely to be lower still in early 1955, both because of large supplies and probably less demand for storage. This will mean that egg prices in the next few months will continue lower than a year earlier, tending to discourage the replacement of egg laying flocks and therefore probably reducing egg production later in 1955.

The outlook for supplies and prices of broilers appears to contradict usual economic relationships. Sharply lower prices this year have not resulted in cutting back output, apparently because they have still covered out-of-pocket costs and provided some returns to farmers and to their supplier-financers, though less than formerly. Because the labor, buildings, and equipment for broiler production cannot be readily shifted to other more profitable enterprises and feed dealers and poultry processors want to increase their total net returns by raising volume as margin declines, the output of broilers in 1955 may even exceed the 1954 record. If this occurs, along with large supplies of meat and farm chicken, broiler prices might well continue close to this year's low prices.

Current prices for farm chickens are much lower than last fall, apparently because of lower storage demand, large supplies and reduced prices for other poultry, as well as for red meats.

The 1954 turkey crop includes 6 percent more heavy-breed birds than in 1953, and 16 percent more light-weight types. Because of these supplies, and less demand for storage, turkey prices are likely to continue significantly lower during the coming holiday season than in comparable months of 1953. But these lower prices are likely to discourage turkey producers next year so that production for October-December 1955 would be smaller.

The net effects of these factors on per capita consumption of poultry and eggs in 1955 now appear to be: Record high consumption of eggs and chicken, and only a slightly lower rate of consumption of turkey than in the past three record high years.

Dairy Products

Supplies of dairy products this fall are somewhat larger than a year earlier. Milk production probably will be fairly close to that of last fall and stocks of dairy products--which include the quantities held by the Department of Agriculture--are record large for this season. Civilian consumption per capita of the major dairy products during the closing months of 1954 is expected to be close to that of a year earlier. Retail prices this fall are expected to average a little lower than in the same months of last year.

Supplies of dairy products will be record large in 1955. Milk production may be no greater than in 1954, but stocks (total, including Government and commercial holdings) next January 1 will be considerably above those of a year earlier. Civilian per capita consumption rates for the major dairy products probably will be little different from those estimated for 1954. Retail prices next year are expected to average substantially the same as the latter part of this year.

Total milk output on farms next year may approximate the record of 124 billion pounds expected for 1954. The restrictive effects on milk production of less favorable price relationships in the next year will be offset in large part, at least, by the several factors that will tend to increase milk output. Among these factors are the desire of farmers to keep up their cash receipts by increasing their sales volume, improved quality of roughages, more productive milk cows, and also more nearly normal pastures. The number of cows on farms on January 1, 1955 will be close to that of a year earlier. On the other hand, feed prices are likely to continue high in relation to prices farmers receive for milk, tending to discourage the feeding of concentrates.

With little change in the per capita rate of consumption of dairy products, the increasing size of the population will raise total milk consumption. The total volume of dairy products used domestically next year may exceed 120 billion pounds (milk equivalent) compared with 118.5 billion estimated for 1954. This would bring domestic use into better balance with milk production in 1955 than it has been in the past 2 years, with the following results: First, there would be a smaller surplus out of current production for the U. S. Department of Agriculture to purchase than in the two preceding years. Secondly, since the Department has generally removed surplus milk from the market in the form of butter and cheese, the pattern of milk utilization in 1955 would differ from that of a year earlier, with a larger proportion of milk production likely to be used in fluid form.

The expected decline from this year in the proportion of milk for manufactured dairy products will be reflected mainly in Government price-support purchase operations. Production of butter and cheese will be affected by the extent of surplus milk production. The output of evaporated milk and the other processed dairy products will be adjusted to the rate of consumer takings.

Under the Agricultural Act of 1954 measures are authorized which would tend to increase domestic consumption of dairy products--by members of the Armed Forces and fluid milk by school children.

The Special School Milk Program established under the Agricultural Act of 1954 provides for the expenditure of an amount not to exceed $50,000,000 annually for 2 years to increase the consumption of fluid milk by children in nonprofit schools of high school grade and under. The Program operates in the same way as the National School Lunch Program through a chain of Federal, State, and local agencies. The Program uses the "reimbursement method," i.e. reimbursing the schools for a part of the cost of the milk they serve in excess of their normal use. "Normal use" is based on the pattern of milk use in the 1953-54 school year. The Program will encourage schools which have not been serving milk to make milk available to their students with Federal reimbursement of up to 3 cents per half-pint. A higher rate of 4 cents is allowed those schools already serving milk, but only on the additional milk. At these levels of reimbursement this Program would make possible the potential additional consumption of as much as 400 million quarts, 3/4 to a billion pounds of fluid milk in the next calendar year. So it will provide a very significant expansion in the market for whole milk.

The Agricultural Act also provides for a program to increase consumption of milk and dairy products by members of the Armed Forces. The Department of Agriculture will reimburse the Defense Department for part of the cost of increases in fluid milk takings above recent levels. The Department of Agriculture is authorized to supply additional quantities of manufactured dairy products to the military agencies without charge.

Fats and Oils

Fats and oils will be in plentiful supply this fall and winter. More lard will be available, reflecting larger pig crops this year than last, and as much of the other fats and oils. Apparent civilian consumption of fats and oils per person during the next several months is not likely to differ much from a year ago. Retail butter prices are substantially less than a year ago and are expected to remain at about present levels. Prices of the other fats and oils will ease slightly.

Supplies of food fats and oils in the marketing year October 1954 through September 1955 probably will be at a peak. October 1 stocks were about the same as last year's record quantity and production, mainly lard and soybean oil, will be larger. The major portion of the carryover stocks was owned by the Government, mostly cottonseed oil and butter.

Butter production in the coming year is likely to be somewhat smaller than a year earlier mainly because more milk will be required to produce other dairy products in sufficient quantity to maintain civilian per capita consumption of these products even at the 1953-54 rate. However, supplies of butter during this period will not fully reflect the prospective decline in production since stocks are somewhat larger this October 1 than last.

Lard supplies in 1954-55 will be more than 10 percent larger than a year earlier and about equal to those in 1952-53. The increase over the preceding year will result primarily from the larger pig crops produced in 1954--most of which will be slaughtered in 1954-55--and also from the expected moderate rise in lard produced per animal slaughtered. The larger supplies probably will be reflected in lower prices than those which prevailed a year earlier. This is likely to encourage some increase both in the civilian per capita consumption rate and in exports.

Output of edible vegetable oils used in shortening, margarine and other food products is estimated to be about the same as last year's record quantity. With large carryover stocks, this means supplies more than sufficient to cover anticipated domestic utilization and exports. During 1953-54, exports were heavy mainly as a result of the record quantity of soybeans shipped for crushing and food, plus the large export sales of cottonseed oil by CCC at prices well below domestic levels. The movement abroad of oilseeds and edible vegetable oils in 1954-55 is expected to continue large, with a new peak likely in soybean exports and substantial sales of cottonseed oil by CCC.

Use of food fats by civilians in calendar 1955 probably will not change much from the last 3 years when about 44 pounds (fat content) were taken. Consumption of butter and margarine appears to be stabilizing. More lard is likely to be used because of larger supplies and lower prices.

Fruit

This fall and winter total supplies of fruits and tree nuts for consumption are expected to be almost as large as a year earlier. More of the processed fruit juices and most tree nuts will be available and about as much fresh fruits, but supplies of canned fruits may be down a little. Retail prices are expected to average fairly close to those in late 1953 and early 1954.

Among the deciduous fruits to be marketed for fresh consumption, supplies of apples and grapes are expected to be larger this fall than last. The cranberry crop this year is 17 percent smaller than in 1953 but still the second largest on record. Marketings of cranberries in the fresh form this fall are expected to be close to those of a year earlier since the volume processed may be somewhat smaller this year. After the first of the year, supplies of fresh fruits will depend largely on the volume processed and rate of movement to fresh markets this fall. Currently, prospects are that there will be more apples and less pears this winter than last. Retail prices of fresh deciduous fruits this fall are expected to average a little lower than a year earlier, but may strengthen a bit during the winter.

Assuming continued favorable weather for the 1954-55 citrus crops, more oranges, but less grapefruit and lemons can be expected over the next 12 months. Large crops of both oranges and grapefruit are again being produced in Florida, assuring plentiful supplies from this State, and prospects are for more navel and Valencia oranges from California. With young groves in Texas starting to bear, considerably more oranges and grapefruit will be available from there this fall and winter. This will mean more pink and red grapefruit than in any year since the freeze damage to fruit and trees in Texas early in 1951. Based on the crop prospects the retail price of fresh citrus fruit--especially of oranges--during the 1954-55 marketing year probably will average somewhat lower than in 1953-54.

Supplies of bananas, which rank next to oranges and apples in volume of fruit consumed in the fresh form, probably will continue somewhat smaller this fall and winter than last. Imports of bananas during January--June 1954 were about 2 percent smaller than in the same period of 1953, partly as a result of political disturbances in some producing countries. However, world production of bananas is increasing and more of this larger production is going to other countries.

Larger supplies of almonds, filberts, and walnuts from the heavy 1954 crops in the United States will be available this fall and winter. But fewer pecans will be available because this year's output is less than half the record 1953 crop. Among imported tree nuts, supplies of Brazil nuts--popular items at Christmas time--are moderately smaller this fall than last, but those of cashews are about the same.

Total supplies of canned fruits for distribution in 1954-55 appear to be somewhat smaller than a year earlier. Figures on several completed 1954 packs of canned fruits, and indications for others, point to a slightly smaller total pack of canned fruits this year. However, the expected decline in the pack this year compared with last will be partly offset by the heavier old-pack stocks carried over into 1954-55. By reducing stocks during the current marketing year, consumption of canned fruits by civilians can be maintained close to the per capita rate of recent years--a little over 20 pounds. Retail prices of canned fruits in general are expected to at least equal those in 1953-54.

Among the individual canned fruits, supplies of apricots, sweet cherries, sour cherries, and possibly peaches will be smaller this marketing year than last. Some increases over 1953-54 are in prospect for the other canned fruits--especially for apples, applesauce, and pears. Continued large shipments of canned pineapple are expected from Hawaii this fall and well into 1955.

Plentiful supplies of canned fruit juices will be available during the marketing year beginning November 1, and civilian consumption of these products is expected to be close to the 1953-54 rate of nearly 14 pounds per person. Carryover stocks of canned juices are much heavier than a year earlier mainly because of the substantially larger holdings of citrus juices, over half of which consisted of grapefruit juice. Another large pack of canned citrus juices, which comprises the major part of the total fruit juice output, is in prospect for 1954-55 and it is expected to be close to the volume packed in 1953-54. Receipts of canned pineapple juice from Hawaii this fall and winter probably will be about as large as a year ago.

Total supplies of frozen fruits and fruit juices in 1954-55 are expected to be a little larger than in 1953-54. More frozen orange juice and berries except strawberries probably will be available this marketing year than last. The prospect of a large citrus crop in 1954-55 points to another heavy pack of frozen citrus juices--especially of concentrated orange juice, perhaps surpassing the record 1953-54 output. Civilian per capita consumption of frozen fruits and fruit juices is expected to be close to the peak rate of about 7.5 pounds forecast for calendar year 1954.

Supplies of most dried fruits during 1954-55 are expected to exceed anticipated domestic utilization. Although there will be fewer raisins and apricots, the supplies of prunes will be up from those in 1953-54. The smaller pack of raisins will be reflected mainly in a reduction in the exportable surplus. In 1953-54, about 54,000 tons of raisins were exported with the aid of Government payments. For dried prunes the heavier supplies mean an increase in the exportable surplus. Per capita consumption of dried fruits in recent years has been a little over 4 pounds, and in 1954-55 is expected to approximate that rate.

Vegetables

Supplies of fresh and processed vegetables, potatoes and sweetpotatoes are somewhat smaller for this coming fall and winter than last. In general, with the demand likely to continue about as strong in the next several months as a year earlier, retail prices for these commodities are expected to average a little higher.

Commercial indications for commercial fresh vegetables to be harvested this fall point to much smaller supplies than those of a year earlier. Output declines are expected for all items except lima beans, sweet corn, eggplant, and green peppers. Among the major items, the reductions are sharpest for broccoli, snap beans, cabbage, and cauliflower; and much more moderate for carrots, celery, lettuce, and tomatoes. In addition to the fall harvested fresh vegetables, supplies of onions from the late summer crop will be somewhat smaller and retail prices higher in the next several months than they were a year earlier.

With the demand for fresh vegetables next year expected to be close to that in 1954 farmers are expected to plant about as many acres to these commodities as they did this year. If growing conditions are normal, commercial production of vegetables for fresh market sale in 1955 probably will be larger than this year.

Until about mid-1955, total supplies of canned vegetables probably will be much smaller than a year earlier. The total 1954 pack of canned vegetables is expected to end up somewhat smaller than the volume packed in 1953. But this decline will be offset to some extent by the heavier carryover stocks this year than last. The general level of retail prices of canned vegetables during the current marketing year is expected to average at least as high as that of a year earlier. This would encourage a larger pack next summer.

The seasonal increase in holdings of frozen vegetables since last June indicates that this year's pack is running below the record output of 1,077 million pounds in 1953. However, with total stocks carried at midyear much larger than those of a year earlier, total supplies are expected to be sufficiently large to permit civilians to consume at least as many frozen vegetables per person next year as the record rate estimated for 1954. With demand strong and supplies likely to be almost as large, retail prices of frozen vegetables during the coming months probably will average no lower than those in the 1953-54 marketing year.

Somewhat smaller supplies of potatoes are available for marketing this fall and winter from the smaller intermediate-and late-season crops. Retail prices are well above the very low levels of a year earlier. Farm prices of potatoes have been significantly above those of a year earlier in each month since May and are expected to continue so at least through the winter months. This may encourage farmers to plant a larger acreage to potatoes in 1955. With normal weather and yields per acre for this crop as high as those of the past few years, potato production will exceed that in 1954. Retail prices for the 1955 crop probably will be reduced by the heavier supplies.

Civilian per capita consumption of sweetpotatoes during 1954-55 is expected to be somewhat smaller than a year earlier. Supplies during the current marketing period will be down from those of the preceding year because of the 15 percent smaller crop, and retail prices are expected to average above those in 1953-54. The 1954 sweetpotato crop is the second lowest since 1881, exceeding production only in 1952.

The acreage planted to sweetpotatoes in 1955 will to some extent be influenced by prices received by farmers for the current year's crop. Given normal weather and average yields, even if the acreage planted in 1955 is no larger than this year, production will exceed that in 1954.

Supplies of dry edible beans in 1954-55 are expected to be about as large as a year earlier, and those of dry peas much larger. Civilian per capita consumption of these two commodities is expected to be close to the rates of 1953-54. Thus, allowing for the increased population, total domestic use of dry beans and peas probably will be a little higher in 1954-55 than in the preceding year, especially for the former. Exports of dry beans may be a little smaller, but those of peas may be substantially higher than the corresponding 1953-54 total, if the strong foreign demand which developed recently continues. Retail prices for dry beans from the 1954 crop are expected to average about the same as those for the previous year, but there will be variations among the various types of beans, depending on their supplies. If exports of dry peas are substantially higher than in 1953-54, retail prices probably will average a little higher in 1954-55 and carryover stocks in fall 1955 probably will be no larger than a year earlier.

Cereal Food Products

There will be plentiful supplies of cereal food products again in 1955. Civilians are expected to consume about as much of these foods per person as this year. Retail prices of cereal products will likely average about as high as in 1954 since marketing charges, which include processing costs, probably will remain fairly stable.

Production of grains this year will be a little lower than 1953, according to October 1 indications. The decline in the crops of wheat and corn are expected to more than offset the large increase indicated for barley, oats, rye, and rice. Despite this reduction in output, because of heavy carryovers, supplies in 1955 will be somewhat larger than this year and more than sufficient to meet anticipated total domestic needs and the export demand.

Wheat production this year is estimated at 959 million bushels. This is 18 percent smaller than the 1953 crop, and reflects the effects of the acreage allotment and marketing quota programs in operation for wheat this year. However, because of the old-crop carryover last July 1, which was a record and much larger than a year earlier, supplies during 1954-55 will be at an all-time high. Enough wheat will be available to meet domestic food, feed and seed needs, supply the anticipated export demand, and leave a record-large carryover of over 950 million bushels at the end of the current marketing year next July 1.

Supplies of rye during 1954-55 will be the largest in 10 years, during which period production had reached the lowest level since 1870. Production in 1954 is estimated at 23.3 million bushels, almost 30 percent above that of last year. This, plus a carryover of 14 million bushels last July 1 and imports under the 3.3 million bushel quota, will provide supplies which are adequate to meet total domestic needs in full. If exports in 1954-55 are about equal to imports, as expected, carryover stocks next year will be close to those of this year.

Rice production in 1954-55, estimated at 4,032 million pounds (milled equivalent excluding brewers' rice), is record large, exceeding by 20 percent the peak reached last year. Total domestic use of rice probably will be somewhat higher than in 1953-54, with consumption by civilians in the 1954-55 marketing year likely to be slightly larger than the preceding year's rate of 5.2 pounds per person. Rice exports, which have increased substantially since before World War II, may set a new record in 1954-55. Even with the prospective increase over 1953-54 in domestic utilization and exports, the carryover next August is expected to be very large compared with the usual very small quantities carried over. Prices to growers for the 1954 crop may average somewhat below a year earlier, but retail prices may not be much different from the prices for the preceding crop.

Supplies of corn in the 1954-55 marketing year are expected to be a little smaller than in the preceding year but 8 percent above the 1947-51 average. They will be sufficiently large to meet in full the expected domestic food and nonfood needs and the export demand. The crop harvested for grain in 1954 was 8 percent below that of a year earlier, enough to more than offset the heavier carryover this year.

Civilian consumption in 1954-55 of most food products processed from corn is expected to be maintained at the per capita rate of 1953-54. Cornmeal probably will be the major exception, with the consumption rate likely to continue its long-term downward trend in 1954-55.

Barley and oats will both be in larger supply during the current marketing year than in 1953-54, and plentiful for anticipated total needs. This results mainly from the very large crops in 1954. As in the past, utilization of barley and oats as food in 1954-55 will account for only a very small part of total supplies of these grains.

Sugar

The domestic demand for sugar during the first three quarters of the year has been about as strong as a year earlier. Deliveries of sugar by primary distributors during the first 9 months of 1954 were 210 thousand tons, raw value, less than deliveries in the same period a year ago. But this has been offset, in part, by the marketing this year of 126 thousand tons of beet sugar all of which was charged to last year's marketing quota. Furthermore, stocks of sugar held by wholesalers, retailers and industrial users have probably been reduced this year. BLS retail prices of refined sugar have been relatively stable, averaging the same as a year earlier, but on the basis of the September decline in sugar prices at wholesale, retail prices may slip off a little in the next few weeks. Civilian consumption of sugar this year is expected to be about the same as last year's rate of 96.8 pounds of refined sugar per person.

In December the Secretary of Agriculture will determine the quantity of sugar needed to meet requirements of consumers for 1955, and will establish marketing quotas for supplying areas in accordance with the Sugar Act of 1948. In setting the quota, the Secretary must take into account sugar distribution during the year ending October 31, 1954, expected stocks on December 31, 1954, and the level of sugar prices.

Acreage allotments will be in effect for the 1955 crops of both mainland sugarcane and domestic sugar beets. They are being instituted in order to bring cane and beet crops into line with sugar marketing quotas. However, these restrictions will not affect the quantity of sugar available to consumers in 1955 and 1956 as ample sugar will be available from the 1955 and past crops to meet the mainland cane and beet marketing quotas and normal carryover requirements.

World supplies of sugar for distribution during 1954-55 are expected to exceed those of a year earlier. Carryover stocks at the beginning of the current marketing year were substantially larger than at the beginning of 1953-54 and production is expected to be up a little.

THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION 1/

Early crop prospects for 1954-55 indicate that world output of major food crops may be significantly smaller than in the two preceding years. However, carryover stocks of staple foods are much larger than a year ago, and production of livestock products, fruits and vegetables will be up. Accordingly, per capita food supplies in 1954-55 will be about as large as in 1952-53 and 1953-54.

The world wheat crop of 6,870 million bushels is 350 million bushels or about 5 percent less than the 1953-54 crop but world stocks in the principal exporting countries on July 1 were 600 million bushels larger than a year earlier. Thus, total wheat supplies for the current season are at a new high record. The food value of this year's wheat crop, however, has been materially reduced by unfavorable weather conditions both in Canada and in several European countries and it is not yet certain how much of the crop this year will be of millable quality. The world rye crop is slightly larger than in 1953-54 with increasing production in Eastern Europe slightly more than offsetting marked declines in Western Europe and in North America and Turkey.

Early conditions for the 1954-55 rice crop have not been quite as favorable as in the previous year when a record crop was harvested. Widespread floods in Pakistan, India, and China have done extensive damage to the crop and, while the crop in Japan is expected to be larger than the small crop of 1953, it is still below average. Conditions in the Philippines are also reported to be less favorable than they were last year when a record crop was harvested. On the other hand, a record rice crop is expected in Europe and the United States, and several Latin American countries which are normally importers are reporting expansion in rice production. In the world market the demand for high grade rice continues strong but supplies of lower grades are moving slowly.

The smaller 1954 corn crop in the United States will be partially offset by larger crops in Latin America and the increased 1954-55 oats and barley supplies which are among the largest on record. In addition this year there will be increased quantities of inferior-grade wheat, suitable only for feed, thus providing ample supplies of grain for livestock production during the 1954-55 season.

World production of pulse crops (i.e., haricot beans, peas, lentils and chickpeas) is expected to be slightly larger in 1954 than a year earlier. While the size of the crops in the Far East, the principal producing

1/ Prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

area, is still unknown crop conditions in North America and Europe have been more favorable than last year. World trade in beans may continue at the relatively high levels of last year. Mexico's 20 percent larger crop will probably result in smaller imports by that country, but Japan is reported to have the second successive short crop and the import demand there may be increased in coming months.

Early indications are that the total output of fats and oils during 1954-55 will not be greatly different from a year earlier. Smaller supplies of cottonseed and olive oil are in prospect but increases in supplies of soybean oil and animal fats are likely. It is possible, however, that world trade in fats and oils will be less than in 1953-54 because of the record large quantities exported by the United States during the past year.

World sugar supplies continue to exceed demand at current prices, and stocks are increasing. Continued restriction of production in Cuba is being offset by further expansion in other exporting areas, and production continues large in many of the importing areas. World free market prices for sugar have been at or slightly below the minimum level set by the International Sugar Agreement which went into effect on January 1, 1954, but trade at this level has not been equal to the exportable supplies available.

More livestock products probably will be available in 1954-55 than in the preceding year. During the first half of 1954 production of meats, dairy products, and poultry and eggs continued upward, and is likely to continue in this direction through 1954-55. Hog numbers in North America and Europe have increased substantially in 1954 and larger pork supplies are expected during the 1954-55 winter slaughter season. Cattle numbers are also increasing and slaughter is expected to continue its upward trend. The production of butter, cheese, and dried milk in the principal producing countries has shown some increase so far in 1954 but the production of canned milk has declined. Early indications point to a 12 percent increase in egg production in 1954 in the major producing countries.

These changes in production and supplies point to continued large supplies of the major foods in general during the 1954-55 season and to more of the protective foods, such as dairy products, meats, and fruits and vegetables than a year earlier.

A review of the food production prospects by geographical areas indicates that the greatest decline is probably in Canada and United States, where the wheat crops were sharply reduced by acreage reductions and unfavorable weather conditions. However, wheat supplies in 1954-55 will be much larger than a year earlier because of the very heavy carryovers from the 1953 crops. On the other hand, Mexico is harvesting generally good-sized crops this year. Thus food supplies in North America as a whole during 1954-55 will be at or near record levels.

Food production in Europe in 1954-55 will probably not reach the high level of 1953-54. Output will be smaller this year largely because of the abnormally dry, cool weather last spring and the rainy cool weather that prevailed over most of the continent this past summer. Breadgrain

production is expected to be slightly larger in 1954 than in 1953, but moisture content generally is high, and considerable quantities are likely to be suited for feed use only. The potato crop is also reported to be up in quantity but down in quality, while the sugar beet crop is likely to be down both in quantity and in sugar content. Shifts in the utilization of breadgrain and potatoes from food to feed will partly offset the decrease in output of feed grains and fodder roots. But hay crops have also been poor, and unless weather conditions favor late fall and early spring pasturage, domestically-produced feed supplies will be short. Nevertheless, present prospects are that output of livestock products will be maintained or increased, with the aid, if necessary, or increased feed imports.

Early crop conditions in Asiatic countries, excluding the USSR, point to slightly smaller crops during 1954 than a year earlier. Production in those countries last year was unusually large. Dry weather in Turkey has sharply reduced the output of wheat and other food crops this year, but in the remaining Middle Eastern countries the crops are expected to total at least as much as in 1953-54. In the Far East, floods in parts of Pakistan, India, and China have reduced crop output. In Japan, crop conditions are slightly better than a year ago but total food output is still expected to be below average. Lower rice production in the Philippines is only partially offset by increased production of other food crops. Rice output in the surplus producing countries of Southeast Asia will be about as large as in 1953-54. Sugar production in the Far East has continued the upward trend of recent years and world supplies are ample. Current indications point to a production of fats and oils about the same or slightly larger than last year. These early crop conditions point to slightly larger import requirements of rice and other cereals in importing countries during 1954-55, whereas the supply of agricultural products available for export from this area will be about the same as in 1953-54.

Agricultural production in most of the Latin American countries is rising, with continued expansion in prospect for the coming year. Mexico, one of the larger markets for United States agricultural products, has excellent crops this year and may not need the usual quantities of imported wheat. A short corn crop in 1953 increased Mexico's imports of that commodity in 1953-54, whereas the crop to be harvested this fall may make only nominal imports necessary. Cuba, with its restrictions on sugar production, is expanding its acreage of rice and other food crops in an effort to reduce its food import requirements.

Prospects for output of Argentine grains are good. The production of wheat in 1954-55 is expected to exceed the high prewar average of 222 million bushels and provide substantial quantities for export. Production of corn and flax also may be above that of last year. Brazilian wheat production is not expected to reach last year's total of 30 million bushels but output of other foods is increasing.

Latin American countries are the leading suppliers of agricultural products to the United States. In the calendar year 1953, that region sent the United States $2,273 million of agricultural products or 55 percent of our total agricultural imports, and supplies for export to the U. S. are expected to continue at a high level in 1954-55.

In other parts of the world food production continues at relatively high levels. Dryness persists in parts of Australia which is lowering crop production estimates. However, livestock production is at a high level in both Australia and New Zealand. Crops have been generally good in North African countries, and higher prices for coffee and cocoa and improved quality of palm oils in Central Africa have greatly improved the economic position in that area.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDEX OF SUPPLY-UTILIZATION OF ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS 1/

The development and computation of measures of the combined flow of all farm products for the past 30 years have been completed after two and one-half years of intensive research.2/ See table 4. These measures have been designed to yield answers to such questions as: Have we used more farm products this year than last, than prewar? How significant are our imports of farm products? How do they compare with domestic output? What about exports--have they gone up or down? What has happened to domestic use--food, nonfood?

Before you can make use of the new tool, you have to know how it works. The major part of the master index--the index of supply-utilization of agricultural food products--has already been published and described. 3/ Here is a brief resume. A bulletin with more methodology, sub-indexes, and analyses is in preparation.

1/ By Robert Lavell and Marguerite C. Burk.

2/ Carried on principally by Martin J. Gerra assisted by Leva C. Taylor and others of the staff of the Statistical and Historical Research Branch, under the research project "Improvements in Consumption Data and Analyses" (RMA). Miss Burk is the project leader.

3/ Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Handbook 62, September 1953, pp. 2-28. Obtainable only from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., price 70 cents. See also Burk, Marguerite C., and Gerra, Martin J. "Supply-Utilization of Agricultural Food Products," Agricultural Economics Research, April 1954, pp. 33-41; Gerra, Martin J. "Visualizing Changes in the Supply and Use of Our Farm Food Products," The Agricultural Situation, October 1954, pp. 6-8.

First, all the farm products are combined in relation to their value. (It's the old story; it doesn't make sense to add two apples to two peanuts and get four what? But you can add the value of two apples to the value of two peanuts to get a total value for the two commodities.) Along with the farm value of raw commodities we use the farm value of processed farm products--the farm value of the wheat in bread and the farm value of the wool in a suit--to measure the value of farm production used in a given year. The farm value is calculated by multiplying the quantities of the products as they leave the farm by the base period prices paid to the farmer (the average price for 1947 to 1949). So, for each year, we wind up with the farm value, in terms of 1947-49 prices, of all farm products that flow through our economy. The index consists of each year's value of all farm products used expressed as percentages of the average value of the three base period years (1947, 1948, and 1949).

The total value utilized in each year is made up of the value of many commodities supplied from several sources and distributed to various uses. We grouped the sources into three categories: (1) domestic production, (2) imports from foreign countries and U. S. Territories, and (3) stocks built up in preceding years. We kept track of how much of the total came from each of these categories, and also how much went to each of the following categories of use: (1) domestic use, (2) commercial exports, (3) net Government purchases for export, and (4) into stocks if ending stocks exceeded those at the beginning of the year.

The index for all farm products incorporates with the food part of the index and same kind of information on those farm products not ordinarily used for food in the United States. Information is not yet available on military takings of cotton, wool, tobacco, and the inedible oils, the principal nonfood items, so we have to group civilian and military use together as "domestic utilization." But this is not a strictly correct description because purchases by our Armed Forces of supplies for relief of civilians in occupied areas are included since they were not reported separately during World War II.

In the process of completing the overall index, we have made three refinements in the food part of the index to match our conception of use in a particular year and to get slightly better coverage. The resulting changes from the data previously published to those in table 5 amount to less than 1.1 percent of any year's total food use.

When the food index was first being compiled, study showed that most of the Department of Agriculture purchases for price support, except grains, were eventually used to meet foreign needs. So we con-

sidered them as having been withdrawn from our economy for use in the year they were purchased. Because the Government price-support purchases of grain usually went into storage here, turning up later in our markets, we treated these holdings along with the commercial stocks. In this way, they were counted as used when they entered the market for final distribution. The necessity for a clearer concept of use in a given year developed after 1951 because of a heavy accumulation of stocks other than grains owned by the Department under price-support programs, notably dairy products, peanuts, and dry edible beans. The stocks accumulated as price-support purchases increased and the shipments for the foreign economic assistance programs declined.

The first refinement of the food index changed the accounting for price-support stocks of the Department in "total utilization" to the year in which they actually moved into final distribution rather than the year in which they were accumulated. We now consider the year that a particular item leaves the agricultural part of our economy, that is, the year it is sold for consumption or shipped overseas, as the year it is to be counted as used. Thus all Government purchases specifically for export are counted in the year in which they were bought even though they may not have been shipped out of the country until a later year because the purchase for export is a final distribution for the agricultural part of our economy. Government purchases for price support, however, are not considered as used until they finally enter domestic distribution channels or are shipped overseas under one of the foreign programs. Until that time they are still available to reenter our markets.

The second change in the food index followed from the first. We moved the stocks of meat accumulated from Government purchases during the drought relief program from 1934 to 1937 over to the commercial stock category until the year in which they were moved into consumption through the relief program.

The remaining refinement in the food index was the addition of several minor food commodities which turned up in the course of later research. We intended to cover all agricultural products with a farm value greater than one million dollars for each of the years from 1947 to 1949. However, mint was inadvertently omitted. It will be added in our first major revision.

Now some notes on the development of the index of supply-utilization of nonfood farm products, table 6. It was necessary to make a number of adjustments to the nonfood data because of the way in which they are reported. Shorn wool is a good example. We wanted to measure the farm value of the shorn wool, that is, on a grease basis.4/

4/ Wool as it is shorn is described as being on a "grease basis" because all the dirt and grease are still in the fleece.

But not all the statistics on the supply or the utilization of wool are are reported on that basis. Imports of unmanufactured wool are reported on a scoured basis, so they had to be converted to a grease basis. (The weight of scoured shorn wool averages 44 percent of the weight of shorn wool on a grease basis.) The semi-manufactured and the manufactured wool products are reported in various ways. Some are reported by number of pieces only and some are reported by value. We had to estimate the weight of the wool covered by the quantity figures and the value figures, and then convert this weight to a grease basis.

Stocks of wool are just about as confusing. Fortunately they are reported as of January 1 so no time adjustment was necessary. 5/ Wool stocks are reported on a scoured basis and they include pulled wool. The first step was to subtract the pulled wool 6/ because it had already been counted as a byproduct of livestock in the food section of the index. The remainder was converted to a grease basis. Finally, when domestic production, imports and changes in stocks were all on a grease basis, we added them together for each year and multiplied by the base period price to get the value of the total utilization of shorn wool for that year.

The utilization categories were handled the same way, though here we only had to determine the commercial exports, the Department of Agriculture's deliveries for export, stocks, and net purchases for export. "Domestic utilization," the only other utilization category, is the residual. Exports of unmanufactured wool are reported on a scoured basis. Semi-manufactured and manufactured exports are reported by gross weight and by value as are the imports. We put all these statistics on a grease basis.

This process of getting the data in the correct form was followed for each of the commodities. Tables 4 to 6 contain the results. Here is an example of the use for the combined index. Say you want to know how much of 1953 domestic farm output we consumed in the United States in 1953. Take a look at table 4, section a. In 1953 domestic production amounted to 96.9 percent (under "production" heading) of the total quantity of agricultural products which was used here or exported (total utilization). The same year we used in this country 93.8 percent (domestic use total) of the total flow or utilization, but this included 7.2 percent from imports. Subtract the imports (7.2 percent) from the total domestic use (93.8 percent) to get the domestic use of products of U. S. farms only--86.6 percent of the total utilization. To get the relationship between domestic use of U. S. produced farm commodities and the total production of U. S. farm products in 1953, you divide the 86.6 percent of total use by 96.9 percent. So domestic use in 1953 amounted to 89.4 percent of the U. S. output of farm products. By other manipulations you can study the changing size and the changing structure of both the supply and the utilization of farm products from 1924 to date.

5/ The stocks of some commodities are reported as of July 1, or at the end of a crop year. In such cases, January stocks had to be estimated because the index is on a calendar year.

6/ Pulled from the pelts of slaughtered animals.

Table 4.- Index of supply-utilization of all agricultural products, 1924-54 1/

Year	Production	Imports	Stock change 2/	Total utilization	Domestic use			Commercial exports and shipments to Territories 3/	Department of Agriculture export program		
					Food	Nonfood	Total		Stock change 4/	Deliveries 5/	Net purchases 6/
				Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year							
1924	94.2	6.7	-0.9	100.0	52.7	38.1	90.8	9.2	---	---	---
1925	92.8	7.1	.1	100.0	51.8	39.7	91.5	8.5	---	---	---
1926	94.0	7.6	-1.6	100.0	53.1	38.1	91.2	8.8	---	---	---
1927	91.6	7.2	1.2	100.0	51.0	39.9	90.9	9.1	---	---	---
1928	93.6	7.1	-.7	100.0	51.9	39.5	91.4	8.6	---	---	---
1929	92.0	8.0	7/	100.0	52.7	39.4	92.1	7.9	---	---	---
1930	94.0	7.3	-1.3	100.0	55.0	37.9	92.9	7.1	---	---	---
1931	97.9	6.7	-4.6	100.0	55.3	38.0	93.3	6.7	---	---	---
1932	95.7	5.6	-1.3	100.0	53.7	39.2	92.9	7.1	---	---	---
1933	90.4	6.5	3.1	100.0	54.4	39.3	93.7	6.3	---	---	---
1934	87.4	6.5	6.1	100.0	58.8	35.8	94.6	5.4	---	---	---
1935	95.2	8.6	-3.8	100.0	57.0	38.0	95.0	5.0	---	---	---
1936	86.1	8.5	5.4	100.0	56.7	38.8	95.5	4.5	---	---	---
1937	99.9	9.3	-9.2	100.0	57.2	37.7	94.9	5.1	---	---	---
1938	97.1	7.1	-4.2	100.0	55.8	38.3	94.1	5.9	---	---	---
1939	93.5	7.3	-.8	100.0	55.8	39.4	95.2	4.8	---	---	---
1940	95.6	7.3	-2.9	100.0	56.5	39.9	96.4	3.6	---	---	---
1941	94.0	8.4	-2.4	100.0	55.3	41.0	96.3	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.6
1942	96.5	5.3	-1.8	100.0	53.4	41.4	94.8	1.2	.9	3.1	4.0
1943	89.8	6.0	4.2	100.0	51.7	42.1	93.8	1.1	.3	4.8	5.1
1944	93.2	7.0	-.2	100.0	55.5	39.0	94.5	1.6	-.2	4.1	3.9
1945	91.9	6.4	1.7	100.0	56.2	38.3	94.5	2.7	-.6	3.4	2.8
1946	92.5	6.5	1.0	100.0	55.2	37.6	92.8	3.8	-.5	3.9	3.4
1947	91.6	6.3	2.1	100.0	56.7	35.9	92.6	5.0	.3	2.1	2.4
1948	99.5	7.3	-6.8	100.0	58.0	36.3	94.3	4.4	-.2	1.5	1.3
1949	95.7	6.8	-2.5	100.0	57.3	35.9	93.2	5.5	-.2	1.5	1.3
1950	92.6	7.3	.1	100.0	56.0	37.2	93.2	5.7	-.1	1.2	1.1
1951	90.4	7.0	2.6	100.0	55.3	36.3	91.6	6.7	.2	1.5	1.7
1952	95.4	7.2	-2.6	100.0	57.5	35.6	93.1	6.7	-.1	.3	.2
1953 8/	96.9	7.2	-4.1	100.0	59.1	34.7	93.8	5.8	7/	.4	.4
1954 8/	95.4	6.6	-2.0	100.0	58.4	35.3	93.7	6.1	-.1	.3	.2
				Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49							
1924	72.1	5.1	-0.7	76.5	40.4	29.2	69.6	6.9	---	---	---
1925	73.1	5.6	7/	78.7	40.8	31.2	72.0	6.7	---	---	---
1926	73.7	6.0	-1.3	78.4	41.6	29.8	71.4	7.0	---	---	---
1927	74.3	5.7	1.0	81.0	41.3	32.3	73.6	7.4	---	---	---
1928	75.0	5.7	-.5	80.2	41.6	31.7	73.3	6.9	---	---	---
1929	74.0	6.5	7/	80.5	42.5	31.6	74.1	6.4	---	---	---
1930	72.6	5.7	-.9	77.4	42.5	29.5	72.0	5.4	---	---	---
1931	76.1	5.2	-3.6	77.7	43.0	29.5	72.5	5.2	---	---	---
1932	75.2	4.4	-1.0	78.6	42.3	30.8	73.1	5.5	---	---	---
1933	70.9	5.1	2.5	78.5	42.6	30.9	73.5	5.0	---	---	---
1934	64.8	4.8	4.6	74.2	43.6	26.6	70.2	4.0	---	---	---
1935	70.1	6.4	-2.8	73.7	42.1	27.9	70.0	3.7	---	---	---
1936	66.5	6.5	4.0	77.0	43.7	29.9	73.6	3.4	---	---	---
1937	77.7	7.3	-7.2	77.8	44.4	29.3	73.7	4.1	---	---	---
1938	76.8	5.6	-3.3	79.1	44.2	30.3	74.5	4.6	---	---	---
1939	77.5	6.1	-.7	82.9	46.2	32.7	78.9	4.0	---	---	---
1940	81.0	6.2	-2.5	84.7	47.8	33.8	81.6	3.1	---	---	---
1941	84.1	7.5	-2.2	89.4	49.5	36.6	86.1	1.9	0.2	1.2	1.4
1942	92.7	5.2	-1.8	96.1	51.4	39.8	91.2	1.2	.9	2.8	3.7
1943	93.9	6.1	4.4	104.4	53.8	44.0	97.8	1.2	.4	5.0	5.4
1944	97.6	7.3	-.3	104.6	58.1	40.7	98.8	1.7	-.2	4.3	4.1
1945	95.0	6.6	1.7	103.3	58.2	39.5	97.7	2.7	-.6	3.5	2.9
1946	95.8	6.7	1.1	103.6	57.2	39.0	96.2	3.9	-.4	3.9	3.5
1947	93.5	6.4	2.1	102.0	57.8	36.7	94.5	5.0	.3	2.2	2.5
1948	97.4	7.1	-6.6	97.9	56.8	35.6	92.4	4.3	-.2	1.4	1.2
1949	95.8	6.8	-2.6	100.0	57.3	35.9	93.2	5.5	-.2	1.5	1.3
1950	95.1	7.4	.2	102.7	57.5	38.3	95.8	5.8	-.1	1.2	1.1
1951	96.0	7.4	2.7	106.1	58.8	38.4	97.2	7.2	.2	1.5	1.7
1952	100.0	7.5	-2.6	104.9	60.3	37.2	97.5	7.0	.1	.3	.4
1953 8/	101.7	7.5	-4.4	104.8	62.0	36.3	98.3	6.0	7/	.5	.5
1954 8/	103.0	6.9	-2.1	107.8	62.9	38.2	101.1	6.5	-.2	.4	.2

1/ Covers food and nonfood agricultural products. Relationships were developed from quantitative data on supply and use of unprocessed and processed farm products multiplied by average prices in 1947-49. All values were adjusted to farm values. 2/ Includes farm and commercial stocks and holdings under price support programs. Minus sign means an addition to stocks, plus sign means a withdrawal from stocks. 3/ Excludes deliveries of the Department of Agriculture. 4/ Stocks held for export. Here, minus sign means a withdrawal from stocks; plus sign means an addition. 5/ Shipments out of this country. 6/ Represents net quantities withdrawn from domestic commercial channels. 7/ Less than 0.05 percent. 8/ Preliminary.

Table 5.- Index of supply-utilization of agricultural food products, 1924-54 1/

Year	Production	Imports	Stock change 2/	Total utilization	Domestic use: Food: Civilian	Domestic use: Food: Military 3/	Domestic use: Nonfood 4/	Domestic use: Total	Commercial exports and shipments to Territories 5/	Department of Agriculture export program: Stock change 6/	Department of Agriculture export program: Deliveries 7/	Department of Agriculture export program: Net purchases 8/
				Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year								
1924	93.4	6.6	9/	100.0	63.5	---	31.0	94.5	5.5	---	---	---
1925	91.9	6.9	1.2	100.0	62.5	---	33.4	95.9	4.1	---	---	---
1926	93.3	7.5	-.8	100.0	64.3	---	31.7	96.0	4.0	---	---	---
1927	92.8	7.2	9/	100.0	63.0	---	32.4	95.4	4.6	---	---	---
1928	94.3	7.2	-1.5	100.0	63.0	---	33.1	96.1	3.9	---	---	---
1929	91.4	8.0	.6	100.0	64.1	---	32.1	96.2	3.8	---	---	---
1930	92.3	7.3	.4	100.0	65.4	---	31.5	96.9	3.1	---	---	---
1931	96.0	6.8	-2.8	100.0	65.6	---	31.6	97.2	2.8	---	---	---
1932	96.1	6.0	-2.1	100.0	64.3	---	33.4	97.7	2.3	---	---	---
1933	90.1	6.5	3.4	100.0	65.1	---	33.1	98.2	1.8	---	---	---
1934	87.5	6.6	5.9	100.0	68.9	---	29.4	98.3	1.7	---	---	---
1935	96.2	9.0	-5.2	100.0	69.4	---	29.2	98.6	1.4	---	---	---
1936	85.7	8.4	5.9	100.0	67.6	---	31.1	98.7	1.3	---	---	---
1937	98.8	9.1	-7.9	100.0	69.4	---	28.9	98.3	1.7	---	---	---
1938	95.5	7.2	-2.7	100.0	66.1	---	30.6	96.7	3.3	---	---	---
1939	93.2	7.4	-.6	100.0	66.6	---	30.9	97.5	2.5	---	---	---
1940	95.3	7.2	-2.5	100.0	67.5	---	30.8	98.3	1.7	---	---	---
1941	95.2	7.8	-3.0	100.0	64.9	1.3	30.9	97.1	1.3	0.3	1.3	1.6
1942	96.8	4.6	-1.4	100.0	59.4	4.0	31.7	95.1	.8	1.1	3.0	4.1
1943	90.4	5.7	3.9	100.0	54.6	6.0	33.7	94.3	.6	.4	4.7	5.1
1944	93.0	6.9	.1	100.0	55.8	8.9	30.3	95.0	.8	-.1	4.3	4.2
1945	92.8	5.8	1.4	100.0	57.7	8.4	29.8	95.9	1.1	-.7	3.7	3.0
1946	95.1	5.7	-.8	100.0	63.7	2.2	29.1	95.0	1.9	-.6	3.7	3.1
1947	91.7	6.0	2.3	100.0	64.4	2.3	27.4	94.1	3.3	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	100.3	6.8	-7.1	100.0	65.8	2.8	27.2	95.8	2.7	-.2	1.7	1.5
1949	94.9	6.8	-1.7	100.0	64.7	2.7	28.1	95.5	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	94.7	6.9	-1.6	100.0	65.5	1.4	28.6	95.5	3.2	-.1	1.4	1.3
1951	89.8	6.8	3.4	100.0	63.0	2.7	27.7	93.4	4.6	.3	1.7	2.0
1952	95.0	7.0	-2.0	100.0	65.9	2.0	26.6	94.5	5.2	-.1	.4	.3
1953 10/	95.5	7.1	-2.6	100.0	67.2	1.8	26.0	95.0	4.4	.1	.5	.6
1954 10/	96.6	6.4	-3.0	100.0	67.0	1.7	26.7	95.4	4.4	-.2	.4	.2
				Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49								
1924	70.0	4.9	9/	74.9	47.6	---	23.2	70.8	4.1	---	---	---
1925	70.7	5.3	.9	76.9	48.1	---	25.6	73.7	3.2	---	---	---
1926	71.2	5.7	-.6	76.3	49.0	---	24.2	73.2	3.1	---	---	---
1927	71.7	5.6	9/	77.3	48.7	---	25.1	73.8	3.5	---	---	---
1928	73.4	5.6	-1.2	77.8	49.1	---	25.7	74.8	3.0	---	---	---
1929	71.4	6.2	.5	78.1	50.0	---	25.1	75.1	3.0	---	---	---
1930	70.8	5.6	.3	76.7	50.1	---	24.2	74.3	2.4	---	---	---
1931	73.9	5.3	-2.2	77.0	50.6	---	24.3	74.9	2.1	---	---	---
1932	74.4	4.6	-1.6	77.4	49.8	---	25.9	75.7	1.7	---	---	---
1933	69.5	5.0	2.6	77.1	50.2	---	25.5	75.7	1.4	---	---	---
1934	65.2	4.9	4.4	74.5	51.3	---	21.9	73.2	1.3	---	---	---
1935	68.5	6.4	-3.7	71.2	49.4	---	20.8	70.2	1.0	---	---	---
1936	65.2	6.4	4.4	76.0	51.4	---	23.7	75.1	.9	---	---	---
1937	74.4	6.9	-6.0	75.3	52.2	---	21.8	74.0	1.3	---	---	---
1938	74.9	5.7	-2.1	78.5	51.9	---	24.0	75.9	2.6	---	---	---
1939	75.9	6.0	-.5	81.4	54.3	---	25.1	79.4	2.0	---	---	---
1940	79.6	6.0	-2.1	83.5	56.4	---	25.7	82.1	1.4	---	---	---
1941	83.7	6.8	-2.6	87.9	57.1	1.1	27.2	85.4	1.1	.3	1.1	1.4
1942	92.4	4.4	-1.3	95.5	56.7	3.9	30.3	90.9	.8	1.0	2.8	3.8
1943	94.6	6.0	4.0	104.6	57.1	6.3	35.2	98.6	.6	.5	4.9	5.4
1944	98.5	7.3	.1	105.9	59.1	9.4	32.1	100.6	.9	-.2	4.6	4.4
1945	96.2	6.1	1.4	103.7	59.9	8.7	30.9	99.5	1.1	-.7	3.8	3.1
1946	97.3	5.8	-.8	102.3	65.1	2.2	29.8	97.1	2.0	-.6	3.8	3.2
1947	93.8	6.1	2.4	102.3	65.8	2.4	28.1	96.3	3.4	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	97.9	6.6	-6.9	97.6	64.2	2.7	26.6	93.5	2.7	-.2	1.6	1.4
1949	95.1	6.8	-1.7	100.2	64.8	2.7	28.2	95.7	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	96.0	7.0	-1.6	101.4	66.4	1.4	29.0	96.8	3.2	-.1	1.5	1.4
1951	94.6	7.2	3.6	105.4	66.4	2.9	29.2	98.5	4.8	.3	1.8	2.1
1952	99.4	7.3	-2.1	104.6	68.9	2.1	27.8	98.8	5.5	-.1	.4	.3
1953 10/	101.1	7.5	-2.8	105.8	71.0	2.0	27.5	100.5	4.7	.1	.5	.6
1954 10/	104.4	6.9	-3.3	108.0	72.4	1.8	28.9	103.1	4.7	-.2	.4	.2

1/ Covers agricultural products normally used for food in the United States, including their nonfood use. Relationships were developed from quantitative data on supply and use of unprocessed and processed farm products multiplied by average prices in 1947-49. All values were adjusted to farm values. For methodology see Agriculture Handbook 62, "Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52." 2/ Includes farm and commercial stocks and holdings under price support programs. Minus sign means an addition to stocks, plus sign means a withdrawal from stocks. 3/ Includes civilian feeding in areas occupied by our Armed Forces. 4/ Includes seed, feed, industrial alcohol, alcoholic beverages, etc. 5/ Excludes deliveries by the Department of Agriculture. 6/ Stocks held for export. Here, minus sign means a withdrawal from stocks; plus sign means an addition. 7/ Shipments out of this country. 8/ Represents net quantities withdrawn from domestic commercial channels. 9/ Less than 0.05 percent. 10/ Preliminary.

Table 6.- Index of supply-utilization of agricultural nonfood products, 1924-54 1/

Year	Production	Imports	Stock change 2/	Total utilization	Domestic use	Commercial exports and shipments to Territories 3/	Department of Agriculture export program		
							Stock change 4/	Deliveries 5/	Net purchases 6/
			Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year						
1924	98.0	7.2	-5.2	100.0	73.2	26.8	---	---	---
1925	96.7	8.4	-5.1	100.0	69.9	30.1	---	---	---
1926	97.6	7.9	-5.5	100.0	68.6	31.4	---	---	---
1927	86.7	7.0	6.3	100.0	71.4	28.6	---	---	---
1928	90.1	7.2	2.7	100.0	69.6	30.4	---	---	---
1929	94.7	8.5	-3.2	100.0	73.0	27.0	---	---	---
1930	102.4	7.5	-9.9	100.0	72.4	27.6	---	---	---
1931	108.1	6.2	-14.3	100.0	72.3	27.7	---	---	---
1932	93.7	3.9	2.4	100.0	68.9	31.1	---	---	---
1933	91.9	6.1	2.0	100.0	70.7	29.3	---	---	---
1934	87.2	5.4	7.4	100.0	73.8	26.2	---	---	---
1935	90.6	7.1	2.3	100.0	78.7	21.3	---	---	---
1936	88.5	8.9	2.6	100.0	78.6	21.4	---	---	---
1937	105.0	10.3	-15.3	100.0	79.2	20.8	---	---	---
1938	105.6	6.1	-11.7	100.0	80.5	19.5	---	---	---
1939	94.8	7.0	-1.8	100.0	82.9	17.1	---	---	---
1940	97.4	7.5	-4.9	100.0	86.3	13.7	---	---	---
1941	88.1	11.6	.3	100.0	92.6	6.2	---	1.2	1.2
1942	94.6	9.6	-4.2	100.0	93.5	3.1	7/	3.4	3.4
1943	86.6	7.5	5.9	100.0	90.0	5.0	7/	5.0	5.0
1944	94.8	7.8	-2.6	100.0	91.2	6.4	7/	2.4	2.4
1945	86.4	9.5	4.1	100.0	86.4	11.6	7/	2.0	2.0
1946	79.0	10.5	10.5	100.0	81.9	13.9	7/	4.2	4.2
1947	91.0	8.5	.5	100.0	84.2	14.3	-.6	2.1	1.5
1948	95.6	9.9	-5.5	100.0	86.0	13.8	7/	.2	.2
1949	99.9	7.1	-7.0	100.0	79.8	20.1	7/	.1	.1
1950	81.7	9.3	9.0	100.0	81.3	18.6	7/	.1	.1
1951	93.9	7.9	-1.8	100.0	81.8	18.1	7/	.1	.1
1952	97.3	8.3	-5.6	100.0	84.9	15.1	7/	7/	7/
1953 8/	105.2	8.1	-13.3	100.0	85.9	14.0	.1	7/	.1
1954 8/	89.3	7.4	3.3	100.0	84.3	15.7	---	---	---
			Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49						
1924	84.0	6.2	-4.5	85.7	62.7	23.0	---	---	---
1925	86.2	7.4	-4.5	89.1	62.3	26.8	---	---	---
1926	87.6	7.1	-5.0	89.7	61.5	28.2	---	---	---
1927	88.7	7.2	6.5	102.4	73.1	29.3	---	---	---
1928	84.2	6.7	2.5	93.4	65.0	28.4	---	---	---
1929	88.7	7.9	-3.0	93.6	68.3	25.3	---	---	---
1930	83.4	6.1	-8.1	81.4	58.9	22.5	---	---	---
1931	88.3	5.1	-11.7	81.7	59.1	22.6	---	---	---
1932	80.3	3.4	2.1	85.8	59.1	26.7	---	---	---
1933	79.5	5.2	1.8	86.5	61.1	25.4	---	---	---
1934	62.7	3.9	5.4	72.0	53.1	18.9	---	---	---
1935	79.8	6.3	2.0	88.1	69.3	18.8	---	---	---
1936	73.7	7.4	2.2	83.3	65.5	17.8	---	---	---
1937	96.2	9.4	-14.0	91.6	72.6	19.0	---	---	---
1938	87.0	5.0	-9.6	82.4	66.3	16.1	---	---	---
1939	86.1	6.4	-1.7	90.8	75.3	15.5	---	---	---
1940	89.2	6.9	-4.5	91.6	79.1	12.5	---	---	---
1941	85.5	11.3	.3	97.1	89.9	6.0	---	1.2	1.2
1942	94.6	9.6	-4.2	100.0	93.5	3.1	7/	3.4	3.4
1943	89.3	7.8	6.0	103.1	92.9	5.1	7/	5.1	5.1
1944	92.8	7.7	-2.6	97.9	89.3	6.2	7/	2.4	2.4
1945	88.0	9.7	4.2	101.9	88.1	11.8	7/	2.0	2.0
1946	87.3	11.6	11.6	110.5	90.6	15.3	7/	4.6	4.6
1947	91.5	8.5	.5	100.5	84.6	14.4	-.6	2.1	1.5
1948	95.6	9.9	-5.5	100.0	86.0	13.8	7/	.2	.2
1949	99.4	7.1	-7.0	99.5	79.4	20.0	7/	.1	.1
1950	89.9	10.3	9.9	110.1	89.5	20.5	7/	.1	.1
1951	103.6	8.8	-2.0	110.4	90.3	20.0	7/	.1	.1
1952	103.6	8.9	-6.0	106.5	90.4	16.1	7/	7/	7/
1953 8/	104.5	8.1	-13.3	99.3	85.3	13.9	.1	7/	.1
1954 8/	95.2	7.8	3.6	106.6	89.8	16.8	---	---	---

1/ Covers agricultural products not ordinarily used for food in the United States. Relationships were developed from quantitative data on supply and use of unprocessed and processed farm products multiplied by average prices in 1947-49. All values were adjusted to farm values. 2/ Includes farm and commercial stocks and holdings under price support programs. Minus sign means an addition to stocks, plus sign means a withdrawal from stocks. 3/ Excludes deliveries by the Department of Agriculture. 4/ Stocks held for export. Here, minus sign means a withdrawal from stocks; plus sign means an addition. 5/ Shipments out of this country. 6/ Represents net quantities withdrawn from domestic commercial channels. 7/ Less than 0.05 percent. 8/ Preliminary.

Table 7.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1951-53, and estimates for 1954, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1951	1952	1953	1954 Prel. 2/	1954 as a percentage of 1935-39	1954 as a percentage of 1947-49	1954 as a percentage of 1953
Meats (carcass weight)										
Beef	Mil. lb.	6,937	9,649	8,843	9,667	12,444	13,000	187	135	104
Veal	Mil. lb.	1,038	1,454	1,061	1,173	1,559	1,690	163	116	108
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	870	716	521	648	729	735	84	103	101
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil. lb.	7,337	10,281	11,483	11,547	10,063	10,150	138	99	101
Total meats	Mil. lb.	16,182	22,100	21,908	23,035	24,795	25,575	158	116	103
Fish (edible weight)										
Fresh and frozen	Mil. lb.	615	706	732	730	660	3/	---	---	---
Canned 4/	Mil. lb.	337	484	485	422	412	3/	---	---	---
Cured	Mil. lb.	74	70	68	68	62	3/	---	---	---
Total fish	Mil. lb.	1,026	1,260	1,285	1,220	1,134	1,130	110	90	100
Poultry and eggs										
Eggs	Mil. doz.	3,335	5,086	5,433	5,590	5,656	5,950	178	117	105
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	1,730	2,753	3,563	3,648	3,800	3,950	228	143	104
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	288	492	691	773	719	790	274	161	110
Dairy products										
Total milk 5/	Bil. lb.	105.9	116.3	115.3	115.6	121.5	124.2	117	107	102
Cheese 6/	Mil. lb.	673	1,160	1,161	1,170	1,345	1,363	203	118	101
Condensed and evaporated milk	Mil. lb.	2,225	3,497	3,228	3,164	2,878	2,979	134	85	104
Ice cream (product weight)	Mil. lb.	1,279	2,758	2,719	2,840	2,893	2,850	223	103	99
Fats and oils										
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	2,195	1,611	1,452	1,417	1,633	1,680	77	104	103
Lard 7/	Mil. lb.	1,630	2,419	2,864	2,886	2,368	2,375	146	98	100
Margarine (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	372	839	1,041	1,286	1,292	1,320	355	157	102
Shortening	Mil. lb.	1,529	1,434	1,403	1,611	1,675	1,830	120	128	109
Other edible fats and oils 8/	Mil. lb.	2,157	3,912	4,718	4,958	5,386	5,410	251	138	100
Total fats and oils (fat content) 9/	Mil. lb.	5,554	7,627	8,751	8,985	9,069	9,137	165	120	101
Fruits										
Fresh										
Citrus	Mil. lb.	6,875	8,782	7,634	7,729	7,838	7,576	110	86	97
Apples (commercial)	Mil. lb.	4,385	3,791	3,538	3,290	3,196	3,400	78	90	106
Other (excluding melons)	Mil. lb.	4,648	4,508	4,062	4,287	4,181	4,200	90	93	100
Processed										
Canned fruit	Mil. lb.	1,705	2,591	3,111	2,780	2,876	2,800	164	108	97
Canned fruit juices	Mil. lb.	333	2,239	2,399	1,866	1,925	2,100	631	94	109
Frozen (including juice)	Mil. lb.	106	416	802	1,008	1,254	1,350	1,274	325	108
Dried	Mil. lb.	1,118	1,008	947	918	861	800	72	79	93
Vegetables										
Fresh, total commercial 10/	Mil. lb.	18,428	22,781	22,968	23,427	24,927	24,759	134	109	99
Canned	Mil. lb.	4,030	6,064	7,806	7,318	7,186	6,600	164	109	92
Frozen	Mil. lb.	11/78	452	770	896	1,077	1,000	1,282	221	93
Potatoes	Mil. bu.	355	414	320	349	374	346	97	84	93
Sweetpotatoes	Mil. bu.	68	46	29	29	34	29	43	63	85
Dry edible beans 12/	Mil. lb.	1,360	1,854	1,588	1,501	1,676	1,665	122	90	99
Dry field peas 12/	Mil. lb.	229	401	352	238	297	352	154	88	119
Canned baby foods	Mil. lb.	37	469	503	562	666	700	1,892	149	105
Sugar, raw basis	1,000 short tons	1,948	2,065	2,042	2,102	2,375	2,600	133	126	109
Grains										
Wheat	Mil. bu.	759	1,251	981	1,299	1,169	959	126	77	82
Rye	Mil. bu.	44.9	23.1	21.3	16.0	18.0	23.3	52	101	129
Rice, milled	Mil. lb.	1,340	2,333	2,522	3,097	3,116	3,364	251	144	108
Corn, grain only	Mil. bu.	2,050	2,788	2,617	2,977	2,870	2,630	128	94	92
Oats	Mil. bu.	1,045	1,294	1,321	1,260	1,216	1,506	144	116	124
Barley	Mil. bu.	239	279	254	226	241	367	154	132	152
Peanuts, farmers' stock basis	Mil. lb.	1,230	2,128	1,676	1,366	1,588	1,083	88	51	68

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits which are on a pack-year basis; rice on a marketing year. 2/ Preliminary estimates based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreage and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These estimates are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1954, but they are based on such official estimates of production as are available at this time. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Board of the Department. 3/ Not available. 4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 5/ Includes farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board and an allowance for nonfarm production ranging from 2.3 billion pounds in 1935-39 down to 0.2 billion in 1954. 6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese. 7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products. 8/ Includes cottonseed, peanut, soybean, corn, edible olive, and oleo oils, oleo stock, oleostearine, and edible tallow later processed into margarine, shortening, cooking and salad oils, etc., and nonfood items. 9/ Includes butter, lard, and "other fats and oils." 10/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets; includes quantities not harvested and use of a few minor vegetables for processing. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 11/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 12/ Cleaned basis.

Table 8.- Retail food prices and total consumer price index, United States 1940-52 and 1953-54 by months

(Index numbers 1947-49=100)

Year and month	Meats 1/	Eggs	Dairy products 2/	Fats and oils 3/	Cereals and bakery products	Fruits and vegetables	Sugar and sweets	Beverages	All foods 4/	Consumer price index
1940	41	46	53	46	59	47	55	45	48	60
1941	46	55	58	52	59	50	60	50	52	63
1942	54	67	65	66	64	64	72	60	61	70
1943	58	80	70	70	65	83	72	61	68	74
1944	56	75	69	68	66	82	72	61	67	75
1945	56	81	70	69	66	87	72	61	69	77
1946	69	83	86	84	76	89	81	68	79	83
1947	94	99	97	110	94	98	102	92	96	96
1948	106	102	106	108	103	100	98	100	104	103
1949	100	99	97	82	103	102	100	108	100	102
1950	105	85	96	80	104	98	102	153	101	103
1951	117	104	107	94	114	107	106	169	113	111
1952	116	95	112	79	117	117	106	170	115	114
1953	110	5/	110	5/	119	114	5/	5/	112	114
Jan.	111	5/	112	5/	118	117	5/	5/	113	114
Feb.	108	5/	111	5/	118	116	5/	5/	111	113
Mar.	107	5/	110	5/	118	116	5/	5/	111	114
Apr.	107	5/	109	5/	118	115	5/	5/	111	114
May	109	5/	108	5/	118	115	5/	5/	112	114
June	111	5/	108	5/	119	122	5/	5/	114	114
July	112	5/	108	5/	119	118	5/	5/	114	115
Aug.	114	5/	109	5/	120	113	5/	5/	114	115
Sept.	114	5/	110	5/	120	107	5/	5/	114	115
Oct.	111	5/	110	5/	120	108	5/	5/	113	115
Nov.	107	5/	110	5/	121	107	5/	5/	111	115
Dec.	108	5/	110	5/	121	109	5/	5/	112	115
1954										
Jan.	110	5/	110	5/	121	111	5/	5/	113	115
Feb.	110	5/	109	5/	121	108	5/	5/	112	115
Mar.	110	5/	108	5/	121	108	5/	5/	111	115
Apr.	110	5/	105	5/	121	110	5/	5/	112	115
May	111	5/	104	5/	121	115	5/	5/	113	115
June	111	5/	103	5/	121	117	5/	5/	113	115
July	110	5/	104	5/	122	120	5/	5/	114	115
Aug.	108	5/	105	5/	122	115	5/	5/	113	115

1/ Includes chicken and fish. 2/ Includes butter. 3/ Excludes butter. 4/ Includes only foods consumed at home. 5/ Not reported separately.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indexes for commodity groups prior to 1953 adjusted to 1947-49 base from the published series on 1935-39 base. The Consumer Price Index revision, beginning 1953, has been described in the Monthly Labor Review.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS-NFS-70-10-54

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:
Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

41
F-73

The NATIONAL FOOD SITUATION

FOR RELEASE
FEB. 10, A. M.
1955

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ FEB 16 1955 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NFS-71

AMS

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, February 3, 1955

SUMMARY

Record food supplies indicate consumption of food per person this year will continue at the high rate of the past 2 years, 13 percent above 1935-39. With high consumer purchasing power, retail food prices are likely to average close to their present level, though moving up and down slightly with seasonal shifts in supplies of major foods.

Here are the major factors in the outlook for food supplies in 1955. We have record stocks of food and feed grains carried over from 1954. Current rates of output of livestock products are high, and near record numbers of livestock are on farms. If weather is average, prospects point to another year of large crops even though acreages of wheat and rice will be reduced. No large increase in military takings is anticipated, but export demand may be stronger.

Sustaining strong consumer demand for food this year are the high levels of economic activity and disposable income, plus the likelihood that about the same proportion of income as in 1954 will go for food and marketing services bought with food.

(Continued on page 3)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

Table 1.- Volume of farm marketings and home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1935-39 average, 1947-53, and estimates for 1954, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers, 1947-49=100)

Item	1935-39 average	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 Prel. 2/	1954 as a percentage of 1935-39	1954 as a percentage of 1953
Marketings and home consumption of all farm commodities 3/	73	100	97	103	99	101	104	109	109	149	100
Food grains 4/	54	100	102	98	81	77	97	98	84	156	86
Vegetables 5/	85	99	103	98	99	99	95	99	98	115	99
Fruits and nuts 6/	81	103	99	98	99	107	101	97	113	140	116
Sugar crops	107	114	91	94	116	93	93	105	115	107	110
Total food crops 7/	72	101	102	98	92	91	97	99	95	132	96
Meat animals	72	105	96	99	100	104	108	111	113	157	102
Poultry and eggs	64	99	96	105	111	118	123	125	133	208	106
Dairy products	88	101	98	101	101	99	100	106	108	123	102
Total food livestock 8/	75	103	97	101	102	105	109	112	115	153	103
Food marketings and home consumption	74	102	98	100	100	102	105	109	110	149	101
Civilian per capita food consumption	91	102	99	99	100	99	101	102	103	113	101

1/ Index of volume of farm marketings and home consumption supersedes the series on volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption. 2/ Estimates for 1954 are based on calendar-year quantities estimated as of January 31. 3/ Food and nonfood items. 4/ Wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat. 5/ Truck crops for fresh use and processing, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, dry field peas, and mung beans. 6/ Except peanuts. 7/ In addition to the crops listed above, includes peanuts, peppermint, popcorn, spearmint, and vegetables grown under glass. 8/ Also includes honey, but excludes turkey hatching eggs.

Table 2.- Index of supply-utilization of agricultural food products, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, and 1947-54 1/

Year	Production	Imports	Stock change 2/	Total utilization	Domestic use				Commercial exports and shipments to Territories 5/	Department of Agriculture export program		
					Food		Nonfood 4/	Total		Stock change 6/	Deliveries 7/	Net purchases 8/
					Civilian	Military 3/						
Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year												
1935-39	93.9	8.2	-2.1	100.0	67.8	---	30.1	97.9	2.1	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	91.7	6.0	2.3	100.0	64.4	2.3	27.4	94.1	3.3	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	100.3	6.8	-7.1	100.0	65.8	2.8	27.2	95.8	2.7	-.2	1.7	1.5
1949	94.9	6.8	-1.7	100.0	64.7	2.7	28.1	95.5	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	94.7	6.9	-1.6	100.0	65.5	1.4	28.6	95.5	3.2	-.1	1.4	1.3
1951	89.8	6.8	3.4	100.0	63.0	2.7	27.7	93.4	4.6	.3	1.7	2.0
1952	95.0	7.0	-2.0	100.0	65.9	2.0	26.6	94.5	5.2	-.1	.4	.3
1953 10/	95.5	7.1	-2.6	100.0	67.2	1.8	26.0	95.0	4.4	.1	.5	.6
1954 10/	96.1	6.2	-2.3	100.0	68.4	1.6	24.9	94.9	4.9	-.2	.4	.2
Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49												
1935-39	71.8	6.3	-1.6	76.5	51.8	---	23.1	74.9	1.6	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	93.8	6.1	2.4	102.3	65.8	2.4	28.1	96.3	3.4	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	97.9	6.6	-6.9	97.6	64.2	2.7	26.6	93.5	2.7	-.2	1.6	1.4
1949	95.1	6.8	-1.7	100.2	64.8	2.7	28.2	95.7	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	96.0	7.0	-1.6	101.4	66.4	1.4	29.0	96.8	3.2	-.1	1.5	1.4
1951	94.6	7.2	3.6	105.4	66.4	2.9	29.2	98.5	4.8	.3	1.8	2.1
1952	99.4	7.3	-2.1	104.6	68.9	2.1	27.8	98.8	5.5	-.1	.4	.3
1953 10/	101.1	7.5	-2.8	105.8	71.0	2.0	27.5	100.5	4.7	.1	.5	.6
1954 10/	102.4	6.6	-2.4	106.6	72.9	1.7	26.6	101.2	5.2	-.2	.4	.2

1/ Covers agricultural products normally used for food in the United States, including their nonfood use. Relationships were developed from quantitative data on supply and use of unprocessed and processed farm products multiplied by average prices in 1947-49. All values were adjusted to farm values. For methodology see Agriculture Handbook 62, "Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52," and an article in NFS-70, "Introduction of the Index of Supply-Utilization of All Agricultural Products." 2/ Includes farm and commercial stocks and holdings under price support programs. Minus sign means an addition to stocks, plus sign means a withdrawal from stocks. 3/ Includes civilian feeding in areas occupied by our Armed Forces. 4/ Includes seed, feed, industrial alcohol, alcoholic beverages, etc. 5/ Excludes deliveries by the Department of Agriculture. 6/ Stocks held for export. Here, minus sign means a withdrawal from stocks; plus sign means an addition. 7/ Shipments out of this country. 8/ Represents net quantities withdrawn from domestic commercial channels. 9/ Less than 0.05 percent. 10/ Preliminary.

Although the total amount of food consumed per person will change little, shifts are expected among major foods. Increases are probable for pork and lard, frozen fruits and vegetables, sweetpotatoes, and rice; decreases for beef, eggs, poultry, shortening, and potatoes. Except for citrus, it is too early to forecast accurately what will happen to production and consumption of most fruits and vegetables.

Retail food prices are likely to be fairly stable at about the present level during 1955. No significant change in prices received by farmers or marketing margins appears likely. The only notable changes now foreseen in the retail prices of individual foods from 1954 are some rise in prices of poultry and eggs, and perhaps for canned fruits and vegetables, but somewhat lower prices for rice and pork. Other changes will follow the seasonal ups and downs in commodity supplies.

During 1954, we established new records for per capita consumption of beef, chicken, turkey, margarine, and as usual - frozen fruits and vegetables. Coffee consumption fell off sharply because of reduced imports accompanied by high prices. The rate of per capita use of fresh fruit was down again, mostly because of smaller supplies. But, in contrast to the long-time trend, consumption of processed fruit did not increase. Unfavorable weather reduced the supplies of both fruits and vegetables. Seasonally larger output of a number of livestock products, large stocks of many other foods and perhaps a slight weakening of demand in the fall, brought the level of retail food prices down about 4 percent from July to December. Reductions for pork, poultry, eggs, and coffee were the major elements in the decline. The prices of the cereal and bakery product group rose slightly during the year, as they did in 1953.

COMMODITY REVIEWS

MEAT

Review of 1954

Meat supplies have risen gradually since 1951. Production in 1954 set a record of 25.4 billion pounds, 2 percent more than the preceding year and slightly above the wartime record of 25.2 billion pounds in 1944. The retail price of meat averaged virtually the same as a year before, although there was considerable variation from a year earlier by months and by kind of meat.

The rise in meat production was practically all in beef and veal. Beef production at approximately 13 billion pounds topped the previous year's record by over 4 percent. Veal output was increased by about 6 percent. The high rates of output were made possible by the record inventory of cattle and calves on farms at the beginning of the year. Production of pork for the year was close to the low level of 1953, though the supply changed from relative scarcity early in the year to about average at year's end.

Civilian consumption of meat in 1954 averaged 154 pounds per person, the same as in 1953. More beef was consumed per person last year in the U. S. than ever before. Consumption was up 3 pounds from 1953, and 24 pounds from 1951, the postwar low. Veal consumption was the highest

Table 3.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averagee, 1952-54, and forecasts for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954 Prel.	Forecasts for 1955	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Meats (carcass weight) - Total	125.3	146.4	144.0	153.6	153.7	156	125	107	101
Beef	54.8	64.6	61.2	76.6	79.3	76.5	140	118	96
Veal	8.1	9.6	7.1	9.5	9.9	9.9	122	103	100
Lamb and mutton	6.7	4.8	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.2	63	88	93
Pork (excluding lard)	55.7	67.4	71.6	62.9	60.0	65	117	96	108
Fish (edible weight) - Total	10.9	10.3	11.0	10.8	11	2/	---	---	---
Fresh and frozen	5.3	5.9	6.3	5.9	2/	2/	---	---	---
Canned 3/	4.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	2/	2/	---	---	---
Cured	.8	.6	.6	.6	2/	2/	---	---	---
Poultry products									
Eggs - number	296	380	405	400	410	395	133	104	96
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	13.2	18.5	23.1	23.1	23.7	22.6	171	122	95
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	2.1	3.2	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.2	200	131	91
Dairy products									
Total milk fat solids	31.2	29.2	27.3	26.9	27.4	27.3	88	93	100
Total nonfat milk solids	39.6	46.6	47.6	46.9	47.4	47.9	121	103	101
Cheese	5.5	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.7	140	112	100
Condensed and evaporated milk	16.5	19.8	17.4	17.2	16.4	16.4	99	83	100
Fluid milk and cream	330	359	352	350	352	355	108	99	101
Ice cream (product weight)	9.8	18.5	17.6	17.7	17.0	17.0	173	92	100
Fats and oils - Total, fat content 4/	44.8	41.8	43.6	44.0	45.2	44.7	100	107	99
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	16.8	10.5	8.6	8.6	9.0	9.0	54	86	100
Margarine (actual weight)	2.8	5.5	7.8	7.9	8.3	8.3	296	151	100
Lard	10.9	12.2	11.7	11.2	10.3	10.8	99	89	105
Shortening	11.6	9.5	10.0	10.1	11.6	10.7	92	113	92
Other edible fats and oils	6.4	7.2	8.6	9.4	9.3	9.2	144	128	99
Fruits									
Fresh - Total	137.1	130.3	110.5	106.9	102.5	2/	---	---	---
Citrus	48.5	53.9	43.6	42.7	40.5	41	85	76	101
Apples (commercial)	30.2	25.2	21.1	20.1	19.2	2/	---	---	---
Other (excluding melons)	58.4	51.2	45.8	44.1	42.8	2/	---	---	---
Processed									
Canned fruit	14.8	18.1	20.6	20.6	19.5	2/	---	---	---
Canned juices	3.8	15.9	13.5	13.7	13.1	2/	---	---	---
Frozen (including juices)	.8	3.2	6.5	7.0	7.3	2/	---	---	---
Dried	5.7	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	2/	---	---	---
Vegetables									
Fresh (total commercial) 5/	140	151	145	146	146	2/	---	---	---
Canned	29.6	38.5	40.9	41.8	41.2	2/	---	---	---
Frozen	6/.4	2.9	5.1	5.2	5.7	2/	---	---	---
Potatoes	128	112	99	102	104	2/	---	---	---
Sweetpotatoes	21.3	12.3	7.0	8.3	7.2	2/	---	---	---
Dry edible beans	8.7	6.6	8.0	7.7	8.4	2/	---	---	---
Dry field peas	.6	.6	.5	.5	.4	2/	---	---	---
Sugar, refined	96.7	93.5	96.1	96.8	96.2	96-97	100	103	100
Grains									
Corn products:									
Cornmeal	22.8	13.4	12.3	12.0	12.0	12.0	53	90	100
Corn sirup	7.6	9.8	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	114	89	100
Cornstarch	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	138	100	106
Corn sugar	2.7	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.8	141	90	103
Breakfast cereals	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	94	100	100
Hominy	1.4	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	186	93	100
Oat food products	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	89	100	100
Barley food products 7/	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	93	81	100
Wheat:									
Flour 8/	157	135	130	126	125	124	79	92	99
Breakfast cereals	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	94	100	100
Rye flour	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	64	100	100
Rice, milled	5.7	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.7	100	119	108
Beverages									
Coffee 9/	13.9	18.0	16.5	16.7	14.4	14-15	104	81	101
Tea	.66	.57	.62	.65	.68	.67	102	118	99
Cocoa beans	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.8	3.7	86	92	97
Peanuts (shelled)	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	2/	2/	---	---	---

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas, and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year and rice which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish, such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Computed from unrounded data. 5/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Barley used for food products in terms of malt equivalent. 8/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 9/ Green bean basis.

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

since 1947. The gain in beef and veal supplies was largely in the middle and lower grades because of greater marketings of cows and heifers. Cattle slaughter was sharply above that of a year earlier during the first part of 1954. Marketings were stimulated in early summer by drought damage to ranges and pastures. By September cattle slaughter was no higher than a year earlier.

Lamb and mutton production and per capita consumption in 1954 continued at about the same level as in 1953.

Pork consumption in 1954 at 60 pounds per person was down 5 percent from the 1953 rate, and was the lowest since 1938. In contrast to beef, consumption was below a year earlier in the first 2 quarters of the year but close to or above in the last 2 quarters. After a 2-year decline hog production began to expand in 1954 with the spring pig crop up 12 percent from a year earlier. However, spring pigs were marketed late, and pork supplies did not increase greatly until near the end of the year.

Imports and exports of meat during 1954 did not change much. Beef and veal imports were down slightly and pork up, largely due to changes in price relationships. Canada continued to be the chief source of fresh and frozen beef and veal, with the Dominican Republic next. Most of our imports of pickled and cured beef continued to come from Mexico and our canned beef from Argentina. Exports of meats were a little smaller during 1954. Relatively high pork prices during the first half of the year and reduced purchases of beef for export under programs financed by Foreign Operations Administration contributed to lower total meat exports in 1954.

Military takings of meat in 1954 were moderately lower than in 1953. Stocks of meat in cold storage at the end of the year exceeded the small stocks of a year earlier with an increase for pork more than offsetting a reduction for beef.

Retail prices of each kind of meat averaged for the year close to 1953 prices, though at times there was a marked deviation from a year earlier. Beef prices were below a year earlier in the first part of 1954 but were higher during the last half of the year, particularly for the better grades. In contrast, pork prices were at record or near record levels in early 1954 but dropped below corresponding 1953 prices during the last half of the year. Veal and lamb prices averaged slightly lower in 1954.

Outlook for 1955

Record supplies of meat are in prospect for 1955. Total production is forecast at 26.0 billion pounds, up 400 million pounds from 1954. With the increase in population, consumption per person will be at about the 1954 average. Most of the increase in meat output will come this winter and early spring reflecting the 16 percent increase in the 1954 fall pig crop. Meat output in the fall also may be above a year earlier because of the 5 percent larger pig crop in prospect this

spring. Pork production this year will be considerably higher than in 1954 when output was relatively low. Production of meat toward the end of 1955 is difficult to forecast because, as usual, it will be affected by grazing and feed conditions and by the actual size of this spring's pig crop.

Beef production is not expected to change much in 1955. Cattle production has leveled out following a rapid expansion. Barring unforeseen developments which would cause producers to sell breeding stock more rapidly than expected, beef output will be fairly stable at a high level for several years. But it might not quite equal the 1954 record. Civilian consumption of beef for 1955 is forecast at a rate a little below the 79 pounds per capita in 1954 but still a near-record rate. The medium and lower grades will continue to make up a considerable part of total beef supplies.

On January 1 there were 8 percent more cattle and calves on feed than at the beginning of last year. Marketings of fed beef will be larger during the next several months than in the same months a year earlier.

Veal production may be only enough larger this year than last to continue per capita consumption at about 10 pounds per person. With cow inventories still high a large calf crop will be produced. Conditions of ranges and pastures during the year as well as the outlook for cattle prices will have much to do with how many of these calves are added to herds or are slaughtered.

Consumers probably will have less lamb and mutton in 1955 than during 1954. Per capita consumption may run a fraction of a pound below the 1954 rate. On January 1 the number of sheep and lambs on feed was 4 percent smaller than a year ago, indicating a slightly smaller supply of fed lamb this winter.

Pork supplies in 1955 will be larger than a year earlier throughout the year and are expected to total about 65 pounds per person, up 5 pounds from last year. However, consumption will still be about 2 pounds per person below the average of the last 10 years. Based on the large increase in the 1954 fall pig crop and the intentions for a smaller gain in 1955 spring pigs, pork production will show less increase from 1954 in the second half of the year than in the first.

Meat imports, exports and military takings in 1955 will probably continue close to the relatively low 1954 rates.

Retail prices of meats may average generally about the same as in 1954. Demand for meat is expected to continue strong. Pork prices in 1955 probably will run considerably lower during the next several months than early last year and much closer to 1954 prices during next summer and fall.

FISHERY PRODUCTS 1/

Review of 1954

U. S. civilian consumption of fishery products per person in 1954 was about the same as a year earlier. Total supplies were somewhat larger than in 1953, especially after midyear when the heavier 1954 packs of some canned fish started moving to market in volume. Prices of fishery products in general averaged approximately the same as in 1953, judging from the BLS wholesale price index.

Landings of edible fish and shellfish in 1954 were somewhat larger than in the preceding year, with an important part of the increase comprised of those fish which are processed and subsequently marketed in the canned or frozen forms. The total volume of fishery products frozen commercially in the continental United States amounted to 246 million pounds, 10 percent greater than in 1953. Also, fairly large production increases in 1954 were reported for canned tuna, Maine sardines, and Pacific sardines (pilchards). These increases much more than offset declines from 1953 indicated for canned mackerel and anchovies.

Stocks of fishery products at the end of 1954 were somewhat larger than at the beginning of the year. For the canned products, this was largely the result of a heavier total pack than in 1953. The 10 percent larger stocks of frozen fishery products on January 1, 1955 than a year earlier resulted from larger U. S. production and the record imports of frozen cod, haddock and ocean perch fillets and blocks. These frozen blocks are the raw material for fish sticks, which have become increasingly popular in the domestic market in the past 2 years.

Prospects for 1955

Prospects for the next 4 to 5 months are that U. S. civilian per capita consumption of fishery products will be at least equal to the rate of a year earlier. Larger stocks of the canned and frozen products are available for distribution this winter when commercial landings are seasonally small, and imports probably will be as large as in early 1954. Retail prices of fishery products in the next few months are expected to average a little lower than a year ago, reflecting in part the heavier supplies.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Review of 1954

Per capita civilian consumption of eggs, chickens and turkeys set new records in 1954. Farm production of each of those commodities was at new high levels, and prices generally were the lowest in several years.

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Egg production in 1954 was 5 percent higher than the year before. Output dipped much less than usual in the fall, running as much as 10 percent above the rate of a year earlier. This reflected the addition of a very large number of early hatched pullets to laying flocks during the fall and continuation of the trend toward evening out seasonal changes. With more pullets laying in the fall, small and medium eggs made up an unusually large part of total production, and the price spread between small and large eggs was wider than usual.

The relatively large supply of eggs in the fall practically eliminated the seasonal egg price rise which had occurred in every preceding year though there were some limited price rises for certain grades. Retail prices averaged 16 percent lower than in 1953 and reached the lowest level since 1945.

Broiler production set a new record in 1954. In 16 important States, production was 12 percent above 1953. While the rate of marketings slackened in the last 2 months (based on earlier placements of chicks on farms), prices did not rise until after Christmas because of the seasonal shift in demand to other types of poultry, particularly turkeys. Broilers made up about three-fifths of the supply of chicken meat in 1954. Ready-to-cook fryers retailed for about 10 percent less during the year than in 1953.

Supplies of farm chickens continued at about the same level as in 1953. Farmers' prices were unusually low in 1954, averaging 18.2 cents per pound (live), compared with 22.9 cents in 1953. Farm chickens are normally priced lower than broilers. However, the differential is often not carried through to the retail counter because of the greater costs of marketing farm poultry and the frequent practice of applying only a small retail markup to broilers.

Turkeys also were low priced and plentiful in 1954. The 1954 crop numbered 9 percent more birds than in 1953. Although the increase in pounds produced was not quite so large percentagewise, the crop was the largest on record. In the first few months of the year, consumption was mainly from that part of the 1953 crop which was in storage. Prices then were generally higher than later in the season when supplies were predominantly fresh birds. During the fall, prices averaged substantially lower than the year before. Prices of toms declined more than hens.

1955 Outlook

Supplies of each of the principal poultry commodities will be large in 1955. Relatively low farm prices in 1954 are likely to result in reduced output of eggs by the end of the year and possibly of turkey also. Prices then probably will be higher than in corresponding months of 1954. Prices for broilers have risen with a reduction of supplies but output is expected to be stepped up later in the year.

The number of chickens on farms on January 1, 1955, included about the same number of potential layers as a year earlier. Currently, egg output is running above the rates of early 1954. During the months of

peak production, March and April, output will likely be about equal to last year's rates. Later in the season, egg production will reflect the size of the springtime hatch of chicks for flock replacement. This is likely to be considerably below last year, particularly in the earlier months of the season, on account of the sharply below-average returns from egg production received by farmers during the past several months.

Current egg prices are below last year. By late spring however, prices might be about the same as the relatively low prices of a year earlier. Thereafter prices may be above 1954 levels with the greatest difference in the final quarter of the year. These price expectations assume a considerable decline in the number of replacement chickens raised and a strong interest in commercial storage of eggs.

Broiler production through about April is determined by the number of chickens already being brooded and will remain below year-ago levels. Hatchery output, however, is now increasing in response to current higher broiler prices. As this supply reaches the market, broiler prices probably will recede. For the first quarter of the year, however, the number of broilers maturing and reaching slaughter weight will probably be about 14 percent less than in 1954.

Farmers have reported their intentions to produce about the same number of heavy-breed turkeys as in 1954, and about 11 percent fewer small turkeys. This would average out to a 4 percent decrease in numbers of birds, but a very small decrease in terms of weight. Storage stocks of 123 million pounds of turkey on January 1, 1955 were practically equal to those a year earlier, probably equivalent to about 15 percent of the 1954 output.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Review of 1954

Milk production began to increase in late 1952 and rose to a record high in 1954. At the beginning of the year slightly more cows were on farms and the average rate of production per cow reached a new record high. After mid 1954 production of milk leveled off.

Retail prices for all dairy products declined following the reduction in support levels to farmers on April 1, 1954. This induced an increase in consumption of butter and in some other items. Per capita consumption of butter increased to 9.0 pounds in 1954 from the record low of 8.6 pounds in 1952 and 1953. Cheese consumption per person in 1954 reached 7.7 pounds compared with 7.4 in the previous year. Fluid milk and cream consumption continued at about the same level as in 1953. But per capita consumption of evaporated and condensed milk and ice cream declined from 1953 to 1954.

U. S. consumers took 95 million pounds more butter in 1954 than in the preceding year. Government stocks rose only 40 million pounds, compared with the 243 million accumulation in 1953. The rise in butter production was stopped during 1954 with more of the milk supply going into the fluid milk market.

Several expanded programs for use of whole milk and its products were developed in 1954--fresh milk in schools, in military establishments and in domestic and foreign welfare outlets. Because of substantial donations, USDA holdings of manufactured dairy products were reduced considerably in the closing months of 1954.

Outlook for 1955

The total supply of dairy products in the United States for 1955 will be the largest on record. Milk production probably will be about the same as in 1954 but the stocks carried in (commercial and Government combined) were substantially greater--14 billion pounds (whole milk equivalent) compared with 11 billion a year earlier. Retail prices of dairy products will continue at about same level as in the last 3 quarters of 1954 and with continued strong consumer demand, consumption of the different items per person will continue at about the same rates as in the second half of 1954. But total consumption will be slightly higher. Production will still exceed consumption but the surplus for USDA to purchase probably will not be as great in 1955 as in the year just ended.

Per capita consumption rates for dairy products may average just slightly higher in 1955 than 1954 when the higher prices were in effect for the first 3 months. The Special School Milk Program may raise the average per capita rate by a few pounds, utilizing perhaps 1½ billion pounds of whole milk in fluid form. As of January 15, 1955, about 42,000 schools had been approved for participation in the program, about one fourth of the schools in the nation. For the month of November 1954, the latest for which figures are available, schools in the program increased milk use 55 percent over their normal monthly consumption. Some states already have more schools taking part in the Special School Milk Program than take part in the National School Lunch Program.

FATS AND OILS

Review of 1954

Civilians again had large supplies of food fats available for use in 1954, with increased quantities of vegetable oils more than offsetting some decline in lard. Production of lard was about the same as a year earlier, but beginning stocks were down substantially. Total production of edible vegetable oils has been trending upward in recent years.

The quantity of fats and oils moving into civilian channels was the highest since 1941 except for 1950 when Korean hostilities began, totaling about 45 pounds (fat content) per person. Increases were registered for butter, margarine, and shortening. The direct use of lard was down and so was the quantity of lard used in shortening. Use of lard and shortening combined was up somewhat from a year ago.

Margarine consumption set another new record at 8.3 pounds (actual weight) per person, up 0.4 pounds from the previous year. Five States (Washington, Iowa, Montana, South Dakota and Vermont) repealed their restrictions on colored margarine during the latter part of 1952 and the first half of 1953. Hence, 1954 was the first full year in which use of the colored product was reflected in the consumption data for these States. Only Wisconsin and Minnesota now have such restrictions.

The downward trend in butter consumption was reversed in 1954, partly by donations of butter by the Government to school lunch programs and to various eligible institutions, and partly by lower prices. Per capita consumption rose from 8.6 pounds in 1953 to 9.0 pounds in 1954. Government donations totaled 90 million pounds, 35 million more than a year earlier. The purchase price on butter was reduced 8 cents per pound last April when support was reduced from 90 to 75 percent of parity. Exports also were bigger because of Government donations to relief agencies for distribution in foreign countries. Despite expanded disappearance, production still was large enough to result in further accumulation of stocks to a record level, mostly owned by the Department of Agriculture.

Exports of food fats reached a new high last year, almost half again as much as in 1953. Increased quantities of lard, vegetable oils and soybeans were shipped abroad. Most of the vegetable oil was from Government stocks and sold at prices somewhat below those in the U. S. market. Exports of soybeans have been trending upward. The U. S. traditionally has been the largest exporter of lard.

Prices of food fats, except butter, increased from 1953 to 1954. Reduced supplies of lard were reflected in a substantial rise in prices. Although large quantities of cottonseed oil were available from CCC, they could not be purchased by the trade except at prices higher than those prevailing in the market during the early part of the year. As commercial supplies became tight later on, market prices rose to the CCC selling level and the trade purchased some oil from the Government last summer to tide them over until new crop oil became available in the fall of 1954. Reflecting this situation, prices of the finished products moved up some toward the end of the year.

Butter prices declined because the Government lowered the purchase price on this commodity about 8 cents per pound at the wholesale level beginning in April 1954. In general, during 1954, market prices for butter were in line with the support price for butterfat. About 320 million pounds of butter were acquired by the Government in 1954 compared with 359 million a year earlier. Stocks of butter at the end of the year were up a third from a year earlier, with most of them owned by the Government.

Outlook for 1955

Supplies of food fats will be plentiful again this year. Butter production may be down slightly but large stocks are on hand. Lard output will reflect increased hog slaughter, coming from the 13 percent increase in the 1954 pig crops, as well as some increase in yield of lard per animal slaughtered. With a record soybean crop in 1954 more than offsetting a substantial decline in cottonseed output, production of edible vegetable oils probably will be at a peak.

Little change in civilian per capita takings of food fats is expected. However, increased supplies of lard should be reflected in greater consumption which probably will be offset by some decline in vegetable shortening.

Exports are expected to continue high. Exportable supplies from other areas of the world appear to be down substantially in 1954-55 from a year earlier. Hence, a good market exists for U. S. soybeans, lard and cottonseed oil.

Little change is likely in butter prices but some drop in prices of other food fats is probable. The Department announced recently that the dollar-and-cents purchase price for butter in the dairy marketing year beginning April 1, 1955 would be the same as a year earlier. Prices of edible vegetable oils are below those of a year ago and are likely to remain so through most of 1955. With increased availability of lard this year, prices are down substantially and should continue below a year earlier.

FRUIT

Review of 1954

Civilian consumption of fresh and processed fruit (fresh equivalent basis) probably was a little smaller per person in 1954 than in 1953, due mainly to reduced imports and larger exports and carryover. Although consumption of frozen fruit juices was up moderately, most other forms of fruit showed slight decreases. Retail prices generally were not greatly different from a year previously.

Total production of fruit in 1954 was nearly 17 million tons (fresh weight), about 6 percent larger than in 1953. Production of deciduous and other noncitrus fruits totaled about 8.7 million tons, up slightly. Larger crops of apples, pears, dried prunes, avocados, and olives were nearly offset by smaller crops of apricots, cherries, cranberries, grapes, peaches, and fresh prunes. The 1953-54 citrus crop, most of which was utilized in 1954, was about 8.2 million tons, up 12 percent from 1952-53. With a sharp increase in the Florida orange crop in 1953-54, total production of oranges set a new record. Larger crops of grapefruit, lemons, and limes also were produced. Total production of tree nuts in 1954 was 173,000 tons (in-shell basis), 17 percent under the record 1953 tonnage. A heavy drop in pecans in 1954 more than offset substantial increases in almonds, filberts, and walnuts.

Imports of fresh fruits comprised a little less than one-sixth of the total supply of fresh fruits in 1954. Total imports were down about 6 percent, mainly because of a moderate drop in imports of bananas, the principal fresh fruit imported. In 1954 per capita consumption of bananas was about 17 pounds, exceeded as usual only by apples and oranges.

Civilian per capita consumption of fresh fruits in 1954 totaled approximately 102 pounds, down about 4 pounds from 1953. This included about 40 pounds of citrus and 62 pounds of other fruits. The shift to

frozen concentrated orange juice continued to reduce purchases of fresh fruit. Apple consumption per person reached a new low, continuing a long-time downtrend. Smaller imports cut banana consumption to the lowest rate since 1946.

Canned fruit consumption by civilians in 1954 probably was a little under 20 pounds per person, about 1 pound below the 1953 rate. The pack of canned fruits was slightly larger but shipments of canned pineapple from Hawaii were smaller than in 1953 and total imports of canned fruits from foreign countries were much smaller. Exports were generally much larger.

Consumption per capita of canned fruit juices (excluding frozen juices) in 1954 was a little over 13 pounds (single-strength basis), about ½ pound under the 1953 rate. This reduction came mostly from smaller supplies of pineapple juice.

Consumption of frozen fruits and fruit juices in 1954 amounted to about 7.3 pounds per capita, up 0.3 pound from 1953. Per capita consumption of frozen deciduous fruits and berries was about 3 pounds, the same as in 1953. Consumption of frozen citrus juices was over 4.3 pounds, a 10 percent gain. About 3.5 pounds of this was frozen orange concentrate. A substantial volume of frozen lime concentrate was made in 1954, adding to the assortment of frozen citrus juices available to consumers. Total output of frozen citrus juices set a new record of about 760 million pounds in 1954. This was equivalent to about 2.4 billion pounds, single-strength. Cold-storage stocks of frozen fruits and fruit juices on January 1, 1955 were up 10 percent from a year earlier.

Dried fruit consumption in 1954 continued at the rate of the preceding year. Total supplies this season are more than adequate for usual domestic consumption. Heavy decreases in the 1954-55 packs of raisins and apricots more than offset a large increase in prunes but carryover stocks at the beginning of 1954-55 were larger than a year earlier. Government payment programs will again facilitate the exports of excess raisins. In 1953-54, about 54,000 tons of raisins were exported with such aid. Recently, the FOA has allotted 4 million dollars to finance the purchase of U. S. dried prunes and peaches by the United Kingdom.

Prospects for 1955

Supplies of fresh fruits in prospect this winter and spring probably will total somewhat larger than in the first half of 1954. Stocks of apples in cold storage on January 1 were 25 percent above a year earlier, with more being held in the East. Imports from Canada are expected to continue smaller than a year ago. Cold-storage stocks of pears and grapes on January 1 were smaller than a year earlier.

Supplies of oranges and tangerines for the first half of 1955 are considerably larger than a year ago. Part of this increase is in California and Texas, which usually market a higher percentage fresh than Florida. But supplies of grapefruit and lemons are moderately smaller

than a year ago. More of the grapefruit will be coming from Texas, including the pinks and reds. Imports of bananas during the first half of 1955 probably will continue somewhat smaller than a year earlier.

Heavier supplies of fresh strawberries from Florida are expected this winter than last. The spring acreage, from which is picked most of the annual supply for both fresh use and processing, is about as large as in 1954. However, production may be higher because the acreage is larger in California, where the yield per acre in 1954 was more than three times the national average, whereas the smaller acreage is in some of the southern States, where yields were light. On January 1, 1955, cold-storage stocks of frozen strawberries were above average but smaller than a year earlier.

Supplies of processed fruits are expected to be at least as large during the first half of 1955 as in this period of 1954. Total stocks of canned and dried fruits on January 1, 1955 probably were not greatly different from those of that date in 1954. Beginning of year stocks of frozen fruits and frozen fruit juices were larger than ever before.

VEGETABLES

Review of 1954

Civilian consumption of fresh vegetables continued at the same rate per person as in 1953. Total commercial production in 1954 was the third largest of record, exceeded only in 1946 and 1953. Retail prices of fresh vegetables averaged a little lower than in 1953 mainly because of the lower prices for snap beans, cabbage, onions, and tomatoes during much of the year.

Production of cantaloups, celery, sweet corn, lettuce, green peppers, and watermelons was record large in 1954. In addition, increases over 1953 were reported for snap beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes. But these gains in output were more than offset by reductions for asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, honeydew melons, onions and spinach. Stocks of onions at the end of 1954 were much smaller than at the beginning of the year partly because of reduced output last summer. Storage holdings of cabbage on January 1, 1955 were also smaller than on the same date last year.

Civilian consumption of canned vegetables in 1954 was a little over 41 pounds per person, slightly higher than a year earlier. With the demand about the same, retail prices averaged close to those of 1953.

Production of the major canned vegetables in 1954 was not as large as in the preceding year, according to reports received so far. Data currently available show large reductions in the output of canned green peas, tomato juice, pimientos, pumpkin and squash, and the California pack of tomato paste. In addition, some declines occurred for sweet corn, whole tomatoes, pickles and sauerkraut. Partly offsetting these declines were the larger packs of canned asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, tomato sauce, and tomato catsup. Indications are that stocks of canned vegetables at the end of 1954 were moderately smaller than a year earlier.

The upward trend in civilian consumption of frozen vegetables continued through 1954. Consumption exceeded somewhat the rate of 5.2 pounds per capita reached in 1953. Indications are that production in 1954 was moderately below the record of the preceding year. The packs of asparagus, cut corn, and spring-harvested spinach were substantially smaller than in 1953, and that of frozen green peas was down moderately. Consumption of frozen vegetables during 1954 was maintained at a high level by reducing stocks by 10 percent over the year. This is the first time that frozen vegetable stocks at the end of the year were smaller than at the beginning.

The 1954 crops of potatoes totaled 355 million bushels, down 7 percent, with substantial reductions occurring in the crops harvested from spring through about midsummer. Despite the smaller supplies in 1954, civilian consumption of potatoes averaged a little above the 1953 per capita rate of 102 pounds. The retail price of potatoes was lower than in 1953 through May, but was higher in the months that followed. For the year as a whole, potato prices averaged 2 percent lower than in 1953.

The civilian demand for sweetpotatoes in 1954 apparently was weaker than a year earlier. Although supplies were somewhat smaller than in 1953 because of reduced output, retail prices were below a year earlier throughout 1954. The average for the year was 18 percent lower than in 1953. Civilian consumption of sweetpotatoes in 1954 was a little over 7 pounds per capita, down about a pound from a year earlier. The sweetpotato crop was the third smallest of record since 1881. Most of the reduction from output in 1953 occurred in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, resulting from declines both in the acreage harvested and in yields per acre. Hot dry weather during the growing season reduced yields in a number of the important sweetpotato producing States.

U. S. civilian disappearance of dry edible beans was almost 8.5 pounds per capita in 1954, 9 percent higher than in the preceding year. Production of dry beans was a shade larger than in 1953. Pinto and Pea beans were the most important classes of beans harvested in 1954 as they were a year earlier. But production of these 2 classes of beans was smaller than in 1953, by 6 and 13 percent, respectively. Exports of beans were less than in 1953 despite the large increase in sales for export--especially of the white beans--which occurred during the fall. The increase in the export demand reflected the anticipated smaller crops in Western Europe because of unfavorable weather.

Total supplies of dry field peas were somewhat larger than in 1953, reflecting both the larger crop and the heavier carryover. Civilian consumption of dry peas appears to have been close to the 1953 per capita rate. Export sales of dry peas to Europe were especially large in the fall, and stocks available for domestic use at the end of 1954 were somewhat smaller than at the beginning of the year.

Prospects for 1955

Current indications are that supplies of fresh vegetables this winter will be somewhat smaller than in the winter of 1954. Increased

output in prospect for carrots, cauliflower, green peppers and spinach is expected to be more than offset by the smaller crops of snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, escarole and tomatoes. In addition, stocks of old-crop cabbage and onions at the beginning of 1955 were much smaller than a year earlier.

Supplies of processed vegetables on January 1, though smaller than a year earlier, appear adequate to maintain civilian consumption at a relatively high rate until the 1955 packs start moving to market in large volume around midyear. Demand for these products in the next few months is expected to be close to that in the same part of 1954. Retail prices of the processed vegetables during January-June may average a little higher than in the first half of 1954. The major exceptions are expected to be canned and possibly frozen snap beans and sweet corn, supplies of which are currently heavier than a year earlier.

Civilians are expected to consume about as many potatoes in 1955 as in the past few years. Supplies during the winter months will be somewhat smaller and higher priced than in winter 1954, when supplies were large and prices very low. Stocks of merchantable potatoes carried over from the late crop were 8 percent smaller than on January 1, 1954, and production for winter-season harvest is indicated about as large as a year earlier.

Supplies of potatoes after midspring probably will be at least as large as in 1954. According to indications in early 1955, farmers will plant a larger acreage to potatoes for spring harvest this year than last. In addition, production in the summer and early fall may total no smaller than a year earlier. Intentions reports point to a 4 percent smaller acreage this year than last in the intermediate and late-crop potato States. But yields may average higher in these areas than in 1954, when unfavorable weather in several important States reduced output per acre.

Fewer sweetpotatoes than last year will be available until about July when the new crop starts moving to market. With consumer demand expected to be equal to a year earlier, retail prices during January-June are expected to average close to those in the first half of 1954. Production of sweetpotatoes in 1955 may be somewhat above last year even if the acreage harvested is no larger. Yields per acre in 1954 were 10 percent smaller than in the preceding year and below the average for 1943-52.

Smaller supplies of dry edible beans and much smaller supplies of dry field peas will be available for domestic distribution this January-June than last. Among the several classes of beans, Pinto beans and the colored beans other than red kidney will be in larger supply than in the first half of 1954, as will lima beans. On the other hand, supplies of white beans will be smaller during this period, and higher priced. Exports of dry beans and peas in 1954-55 are expected to be heavier than a year earlier since sales last fall for export were large.

Production of dry edible beans and peas may be somewhat larger in 1955 than in 1954. The higher prices than a year earlier received for the 1954 crops are expected to encourage some expansion in acreage. In addition, acreage allotments on basic crops may also result in a larger acreage planted to dry beans and peas in 1955.

CEREAL FOOD PRODUCTS

Review of 1954

Wheat supplies in 1954 were record large. Record January 1 stocks more than offset the 200 million bushel decline in the crop from 1953 to 1954. The drop in output reflects primarily the effects of the acreage allotment and marketing quota program. The 1954 crop of 970 million bushels was the second in the last 11 years to fall below a billion bushels.

Domestic disappearance was reduced about 50 million bushels in 1954 because less wheat was used for feed and seed. Exports were reduced almost as much, because of large crops or supplies in exporting countries as well as in most importing countries. Use of wheat for food by U. S. consumers in 1954 is estimated to have declined another 2 pounds per capita to 177 pounds, but total food use stayed about the same. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, retail flour prices were up 2½ percent and white bread about 5 percent from 1953.

Per capita use of rye for food in this country equalled the record low rate set in 1947. Food use totaled 5 million bushels. In contrast nonfood use, mostly for alcohol and feed, rose about 15 percent to 19 million bushels. Rye production has been stepped up, apparently as a result of curtailment in wheat acreage.

Although the 1953 crop of rice set a new record, per capita consumption in this country remained in 1954 at about the same rate as in the preceding two years. Retail prices averaged slightly higher. Retail prices declined toward midyear when it became apparent that exports, though very large, were not sufficient to move the crop. Stocks on August 1, 1954 were about five times as large as a year earlier.

Plentiful supplies of feed concentrates have been available throughout 1954 and stocks have built up. Much of the reserve supply of feed grains is held under the CCC price support program.

Civilian consumption of corn products in 1954 totaled about 47 pounds (grain equivalent) per person, slightly below the 1953 rate. Retail prices of cornmeal averaged about the same as a year earlier, while corn flakes were slightly higher. Wholesale prices of corn sirup, sugar, and starch during 1954, averaged practically the same as in 1953.

Supplies of corn continued large in 1954 and stocks remaining on January 1, 1955, were at a record level. The 2,652 million bushels of 1954 corn harvested for grain was 224 million bushels less than the 1953 crop,

but this was largely offset by a substantial increase in the supply remaining from crops of preceding years. Total domestic utilization--food and nonfood combined--was a little smaller than in 1953.

Food use of oats and barley in 1954 continued at about the same rate per capita as in 1953.

Outlook for 1955

Civilian per capita consumption of wheat as food is likely to shade downward again in 1955, following its long time trend. Despite the drop expected in farm prices of wheat, with the Government support level reduced 7 percent, little change in retail prices of wheat food products is forecast. The cost of the wheat makes up only a small part of the costs of the processed items.

Very large supplies of wheat are in prospect throughout 1955. Stocks on January 1 were more than half again as large as our total domestic and export requirements for a whole year. Even though acreage allotments and marketing quotas will be used to hold down output again this year, the 1955 crop may be almost equal to the year's domestic use plus foreign requirements from our supplies. A winter wheat crop of about 680 million bushels was indicated as of December 1. This would be 14 percent less than the 1954 winter crop. Winter wheat ordinarily accounts for about three-fourths of the total crop.

Despite the likelihood that the rye crop this year will be the biggest since 1943, civilian food use may decline some again.

Record supplies of rice are likely to encourage some increase in domestic consumption as food. Retail prices are down slightly from a year ago and the Department of Agriculture is donating rice bought under price support operations to school lunches and charitable institutions, and to people eligible for charitable assistance. Even if more rice is exported in 1954-55 than the large amounts shipped in the past 3 years, we are still likely to have a net accumulation. The 1954 crop exceeded the previous year's record by 12 percent. The acreage allotments for rice for 1955 are much smaller than acreages planted in 1954. Marketing quotas for the 1955 crop were approved in the referendum held January 28, 1955.

Stocks of corn in all positions on January 1, 1955, totaled 2,799 million bushels, 4 percent higher than a year earlier and a new record for that date. However, about one-fourth was under loan or owned by CCC. Civilian consumption of corn is expected to continue near the 1954 level during the coming year, while nonfood uses, principally livestock feed, are expected to increase moderately.

Supplies of oats and barley are expected to be very large throughout the 1955 calendar year. With large acreages again in prospect, a favorable growing season would give very large supplies for 1955-56 and prices of these grains would be low again this summer relative to corn.

The price support for 1955 oats has been reduced to 61 cents per bushel and for barley to 94 cents per bushel, compared with 75 cents and $1.15, respectively, in 1954.

A record supply of feed grains and other concentrates is available for the 1954-55 season, and the supply is near record per animal unit. The large reserves of feed grains will contribute considerably to keeping the output of livestock products at a high level.

SUGAR

Review of 1954

Civilian consumption of sugar per person in 1954 is estimated to have been 96 pounds, about the same as in 1953. The distribution of sugar for domestic consumption by primary distributors totaled 8,186 thousand tons, raw value in 1954. This was 4 percent less than the record 8,485 thousand tons distributed in 1953. These lower deliveries in 1954, however, did not result in a corresponding decline in consumption since 126 thousand tons of beet sugar actually delivered in 1954, were charged against 1953 quotas. Although beet sugar was similarly marketed in 1954 for consumption in 1955, the quantity involved was much smaller. In addition, stocks of sugar held by wholesalers and industrial users are believed to have declined during 1954. Retail prices of sugar in 1954 averaged 10.5 cents per pound in 5-pound packages, a tenth of a cent less than in 1953.

The initial marketing quota for 1954 of 8 million tons, raw value, was increased twice--by 200 thousand tons in March and 50 thousand tons on December 3. These increases were made in order to keep supplies in balance with demand at stable prices.

The 1954 crop of sugar beets was the largest on record, 16 percent above 1953 and 42 percent greater than the 10-year average. Sugarcane production was down 9 percent from 1953. This decline is attributed mainly to acreage controls on sugarcane in 1954.

Since the sugar produced from the 1954 sugar crops is more than producers can market under their marketing quotas, acreages of both sugar beets and sugarcane will be restricted in 1955 to bring production of these crops into line with their quotas.

Prospects for 1955

The Secretary of Agriculture announced a sugar marketing quota of 8,200 thousand tons, raw value, for 1955, 300 thousand tons less than indicated consumption in 1955. As in the past two years the quota has been set initially below the indicated level of sugar consumption for the year. This was done mainly to help stabilize sugar prices at levels required by the Sugar Act.

Restrictions on sugar crops will be continued in 1955 in Puerto Rico and Cuba. However, supplies of sugar in Cuba available for shipment to the United States are still very large.

Table 4.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averagee, 1952-54, and forecaste for 1955, with percentage compariaons 1/

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954 Prel.	Forecaets: for 1955 2/	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1947-49	1954
Meats (carcass weight)										
Beef	Mil. lb.	6,937	9,649	9,667	12,444	12,994	12,800	185	133	99
Veal	Mil. lb.	1,038	1,454	1,173	1,559	1,664	1,700	164	117	102
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	870	716	648	729	735	700	80	98	95
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil. lb.	7,337	10,281	11,547	10,063	10,010	10,800	147	105	108
Total meats	Mil. lb.	16,182	22,100	23,035	24,795	25,403	26,000	161	118	102
Fish (edible weight)										
Fresh and frozen	Mil. lb.	615	706	730	660	3/	3/	---	---	---
Canned 4/	Mil. lb.	337	484	422	412	3/	3/	---	---	---
Cured	Mil. lb.	74	70	68	62	3/	3/	---	---	---
Total fish	Mil. lb.	1,026	1,260	1,220	1,134	1,185	3/	---	---	---
Poultry and eggs										
Eggs	Mil. doz.	3,335	5,086	5,590	5,656	5,920	5,750	172	113	97
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	1,730	2,753	3,648	3,800	3,950	3,850	223	140	97
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	288	492	773	719	790	740	257	150	94
Dairy products										
Total milk 5/	Bil. lb.	105.9	116.3	115.6	121.5	124.0	124.0	117	107	100
Cheese 6/	Mil. lb.	673	1,160	1,170	1,345	1,354	1,320	196	114	97
Condensed and evaporated milk	Mil. lb.	2,225	3,497	3,165	2,878	2,875	2,960	133	85	103
Ice cream (product weight)	Mil. lb.	1,279	2,758	2,845	2,893	2,841	2,890	226	105	102
Fats and oils										
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	2,195	1,611	1,417	1,633	1,664	1,625	74	101	98
Lard 7/	Mil. lb.	1,630	2,419	2,886	2,368	2,350	2,635	162	109	112
Margarine (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	372	839	1,286	1,292	1,364	1,370	368	163	100
Shortening	Mil. lb.	1,529	1,434	1,611	1,675	1,961	1,815	119	127	93
Other edible fats and oils 8/	Mil. lb.	2,157	3,912	4,958	5,386	5,532	5,300	246	135	96
Total fats and oils (fat content) 9/	Mil. lb.	5,554	7,627	8,985	9,069	9,222	9,250	167	121	100
Fruits										
Fresh										
Citrus	Mil. lb.	6,875	8,782	7,729	7,838	7,576	7,750	113	88	102
Apples (commercial)	Mil. lb.	4,385	3,791	3,290	3,196	3,400	3/	---	---	---
Other (excluding melone)	Mil. lb.	4,648	4,508	4,287	4,171	4,200	3/	---	---	---
Processed										
Canned fruit	Mil. lb.	1,705	2,591	2,780	2,876	2,950	3/	---	---	---
Canned fruit juicee	Mil. lb.	333	2,230	1,866	1,924	2,000	3/	---	---	---
Frozen (including juice)	Mil. lb.	106	416	1,008	1,254	1,275	3/	---	---	---
Dried	Mil. lb.	1,118	1,008	918	863	815	3/	---	---	---
Vegetablee										
Fresh, total commercial 10/	Mil. lb.	18,565	23,041	23,649	25,066	24,902	3/	---	---	---
Canned	Mil. lb.	4,030	6,064	7,318	7,184	6,861	3/	---	---	---
Frozen	Mil. lb.	11/78	452	896	1,077	935	3/	---	---	---
Potatoes	Mil. bu.	355	414	349	380	355	3/	---	---	---
Sweetpotatoee	Mil. bu.	68	46	29	34	30	3/	---	---	---
Dry edible beans 12/	Mil. lb.	1,360	1,854	1,501	1,682	1,700	3/	---	---	---
Dry field peas 12/	Mil. lb.	229	401	238	297	308	3/	---	---	---
Canned baby foods	Mil. lb.	37	469	562	666	700	3/	---	---	---
Sugar, raw basis	1,000 short tons	1,948	2,065	2,102	2,375	2,610	2,400	123	116	92
Grains										
Wheat	Mil. bu.	759	1,251	1,299	1,169	970	13/850	112	68	88
Rye	Mil. bu.	44.9	23.1	16.0	18.2	23.7	3/	---	---	---
Rice, milled	Mil. lb.	1,340	2,333	3,097	3,116	3,370	3,842	287	165	114
Corn, grain only	Mil. bu.	2,050	2,788	2,977	2,876	2,652	3/	---	---	---
Oats	Mil. bu.	1,045	1,294	1,260	1,209	1,500	3/	---	---	---
Barley	Mil. bu.	239	279	226	243	370	3/	---	---	---
Peanuts, farmers' stock basis	Mil. lb.	1,230	2,128	1,366	1,588	1,044	3/	---	---	---

1/ Calendar year basie except for freeh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruite on a pack-year beginning year indicated; and rice on a marketing year ending year indicated. 2/ Forecasts or preliminary indications based on trends in livestock numbere, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreage and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These forecasts are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1955, and are not official estimates of production. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Board of the Department. 3/ Not available. 4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 5/ Includes farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board and an allowance for nonfarm production ranging from 2.3 billion pounds in 1935-39 down to 0.2 billion in 1955. 6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese. 7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood producte. 8/ Includes cottonseed, peanut, eoybean, corn, edible olive, and oleo oils, oleo stock, oleostearine, and edible tallow later processed into margarine, shortening, cooking and ealad oils, etc., and nonfood items. 9/ Includes butter, lard, and "other fats and oils." 10/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as freeh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets; includes quantities not harvested and use of a few minor vegetables for processing. Excludes farm garden output for farm houeehold use. 11/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 12/ Cleaned basie. 13/ Based on average 1944-53 yields and allotted acres.

Table 5.- Retail food prices and total consumer price index, United States, 1940-52 and 1953-54 by months

(Index numbers, 1947-49=100)

Year and month	Meats 1/	Eggs	Dairy products 2/	Fats and oils 3/	Cereals and bakery products	Fruits and vegetables	Sugar and sweets	Beverages	All foods 4/	Consumer price index
1945	56	81	70	69	66	87	72	61	69	77
1946	69	83	86	84	76	89	81	68	79	83
1947	94	99	97	110	94	98	102	92	96	96
1948	106	102	106	108	103	100	98	100	104	103
1949	100	99	97	82	103	102	100	108	100	102
1950	105	85	96	80	104	98	102	153	101	103
1951	117	104	107	94	114	107	106	169	113	111
1952	116	95	112	79	117	117	106	170	115	114
1953	110	5/	110	5/	119	114	5/	5/	112	114
Jan.	111	5/	112	5/	118	117	5/	5/	113	114
Feb.	108	5/	111	5/	118	116	5/	5/	111	113
Mar.	107	5/	110	5/	118	116	5/	5/	111	114
Apr.	107	5/	109	5/	118	115	5/	5/	111	114
May	109	5/	108	5/	118	115	5/	5/	112	114
June	111	5/	108	5/	119	122	5/	5/	114	114
July	112	5/	108	5/	119	118	5/	5/	114	115
Aug.	114	5/	109	5/	120	113	5/	5/	114	115
Sept.	114	5/	110	5/	120	107	5/	5/	114	115
Oct.	111	5/	110	5/	120	108	5/	5/	113	115
Nov.	107	5/	110	5/	121	107	5/	5/	111	115
Dec.	108	5/	110	5/	121	109	5/	5/	112	115
1954 6/	108	5/	106	5/	122	112	5/	5/	112	115
Jan.	110	5/	110	5/	121	111	5/	5/	113	115
Feb.	110	5/	109	5/	121	108	5/	5/	112	115
Mar.	110	5/	108	5/	121	108	5/	5/	111	115
Apr.	110	5/	105	5/	121	110	5/	5/	112	115
May	111	5/	104	5/	121	115	5/	5/	113	115
June	111	5/	103	5/	121	117	5/	5/	113	115
July	110	5/	104	5/	122	120	5/	5/	114	115
Aug.	108	5/	105	5/	122	115	5/	5/	113	115
Sept.	107	5/	106	5/	123	110	5/	5/	112	115
Oct.	104	5/	107	5/	123	111	5/	5/	111	114
Nov.	104	5/	107	5/	123	110	5/	5/	110	115
Dec.	102	5/	107	5/	123	108	5/	5/	109	114

1/ Includes chicken and fish. 2/ Includes butter. 3/ Excludes butter. 4/ Includes only foods consumed at home. 5/ Not reported separately. 6/ Annual averages computed by AMS.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indexes for commodity groups prior to 1953 adjusted to 1947-49 base from the published series on 1935-39 base. The Consumer Price Index revision, beginning 1953, has been described in the Monthly Labor Review.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS-NFS-71-2/55

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:
Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Reserve
1.941
S2F73

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NATIONAL FOOD SITUATION

NFS-72

FOR RELEASE
MAY 2, P. M.
1955

In this issue:
March Report on Farmers' Intentions to Plant (p. 14)
New Survey of Food Consumption (p. 19)
Food Distribution Programs of the Department:
Part I. The National School Lunch Program (p. 20)

AMS

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 25, 1955

SUMMARY

The general outlook for food supplies this spring and summer continues bright despite the freeze and wind damage in late March to vegetables and deciduous fruits across the southern part of the country. Large supplies of livestock products will be marketed. Because other foods, including processed fruits and vegetables, will be plentiful and fresh produce from other areas will be moving to market soon, the effects of the freeze damage will be rather temporary.

The freeze damage plus usual seasonal shifts in supplies of individual products and strong consumer demand probably will raise the retail food price index a little more than seasonally in the next few months. But consumers can rather easily shift their food buying to take advantage of lower prices on foods in seasonally large supply.

The report on farmers' intentions to plant issued by the Department in mid-March indicates the likelihood of some sharp shifts from 1954 planted acreages for several major commodities for which supplies are particularly plentiful. The general shift is toward more feedstuffs to sustain continued expansion of the output of livestock products over the next year or so.

(Continued on page 3)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

Table 1.- Volume of farm marketings and home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1935-39 average, 1948-54, and preliminary indications for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers, 1947-49=100)

Item	1935-39 average	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 Prel.	Indications for 1955 2/	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1954
Marketings and home consumption of all farm commodities 3/	73	97	103	99	101	104	109	108	106	145	98
Food grains 4/	54	102	98	81	77	97	98	84	70	130	83
Vegetables 5/	85	103	98	99	99	95	99	93	95	113	102
Fruits and nuts 6/	90	100	97	97	106	101	99	101	102	113	101
Sugar crops	107	91	94	116	93	93	105	115	115	107	100
Total food crops 7/	72	102	98	92	91	97	99	90	85	115	94
Meat animals	72	96	99	100	104	108	111	112	116	161	104
Poultry and eggs	64	96	105	111	118	123	125	133	131	208	98
Dairy products	88	98	101	101	99	100	106	108	108	123	100
Total food livestock 8/	75	97	101	102	105	109	112	115	117	156	102
Food marketings and home consumption	74	98	100	100	102	105	109	108	108	146	100
Civilian per capita food consumption	91	99	99	100	99	101	102	103	103	113	100

1/ Index of volume of farm marketings and home consumption supersedes the series on volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption. 2/ Estimates for 1955 are based on calendar-year quantities estimated as of April 15. 3/ Food and nonfood items. 4/ Wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat. 5/ Truck crops for fresh use and processing, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, dry field peas, and mung beans. 6/ Except peanuts. 7/ In addition to the crops listed above, includes peanuts, peppermint, popcorn, spearmint, and vegetables grown under glass. 8/ Also includes honey, but excludes turkey hatching eggs.

Table 2.- Index of supply-utilization of agricultural food products, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, and 1947-54 1/

Year	Production	Imports	Stock change 2/	Total utilization	Domestic use: Food: Civilian	Domestic use: Food: Military 3/	Domestic use: Nonfood 4/	Domestic use: Total	Commercial exports and shipments to Territories 5/	Department of Agriculture export program: Stock change 6/	Department of Agriculture export program: Deliveries 7/	Department of Agriculture export program: Net purchases 8/
Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year												
1935-39	93.9	8.2	-2.1	100.0	67.8	---	30.1	97.9	2.1	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	91.7	6.0	2.3	100.0	64.4	2.3	27.4	94.1	3.3	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	100.3	6.8	-7.1	100.0	65.8	2.8	27.2	95.8	2.7	-.2	1.7	1.5
1949	94.9	6.8	-1.7	100.0	64.7	2.7	28.1	95.5	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	94.7	6.9	-1.6	100.0	65.5	1.4	28.6	95.5	3.2	-.1	1.4	1.3
1951	89.8	6.8	3.4	100.0	63.0	2.7	27.7	93.4	4.6	.3	1.7	2.0
1952	95.0	7.0	-2.0	100.0	65.9	2.0	26.6	94.5	5.2	-.1	.4	.3
1953 10/	95.5	7.1	-2.6	100.0	67.2	1.8	26.0	95.0	4.4	.1	.5	.6
1954 10/	96.1	6.2	-2.3	100.0	68.4	1.6	24.9	94.9	4.9	-.2	.4	.2
Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49												
1935-39	71.8	6.3	-1.6	76.5	51.8	---	23.1	74.9	1.6	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	93.8	6.1	2.4	102.3	65.8	2.4	28.1	96.3	3.4	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	97.9	6.6	-6.9	97.6	64.2	2.7	26.6	93.5	2.7	-.2	1.6	1.4
1949	95.1	6.8	-1.7	100.2	64.8	2.7	28.2	95.7	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	96.0	7.0	-1.6	101.4	66.4	1.4	29.0	96.8	3.2	-.1	1.5	1.4
1951	94.6	7.2	3.6	105.4	66.4	2.9	29.2	98.5	4.8	.3	1.8	2.1
1952	99.4	7.3	-2.1	104.6	68.9	2.1	27.8	98.8	5.5	-.1	.4	.3
1953 10/	101.1	7.5	-2.8	105.8	71.0	2.0	27.5	100.5	4.7	.1	.5	.6
1954 10/	102.4	6.6	-2.4	106.6	72.9	1.7	26.6	101.2	5.2	-.2	.4	.2

1/ Covers agricultural products normally used for food in the United States, including their nonfood use. Relationships were developed from quantitative data on supply and use of unprocessed and processed farm products multiplied by average prices in 1947-49. All values were adjusted to farm values. For methodology see Agriculture Handbook 62, "Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52," and an article in NFS-70, "Introduction of the Index of Supply-Utilization of All Agricultural Products." 2/ Includes farm and commercial stocks and holdings under price support programs. Minus sign means an addition to stocks, plus sign means a withdrawal from stocks. 3/ Includes civilian feeding in areas occupied by our Armed Forces. 4/ Includes seed, feed, industrial alcohol, alcoholic beverages, etc. 5/ Excludes deliveries by the Department of Agriculture. 6/ Stocks held for export. Here, minus sign means a withdrawal from stocks; plus sign means an addition. 7/ Shipments out of this country. 8/ Represents net quantities withdrawn from domestic commercial channels. 9/ Less than 0.05 percent. 10/ Preliminary.

Contributing to the high level of food consumption in recent years has been increased noon-time consumption by our school children. About one-third of the country's school children are participating in the National School Lunch Program this year. About 80 percent of the lunches served to them will be of Type A, a nutritionally balanced meal. The Department of Agriculture is expected to contribute close to 4.5 cents in cash per Type A lunch this year. About $66 million worth of surplus foods will be contributed to school lunches. The Special School Milk Program provides additional assistance to encourage greater milk consumption.

To find out more about the patterns of food consumption, a survey of household food consumption sponsored by the Department of Agriculture is now in progress across the country. A sample of about 6,000 households, rural and urban, will be contacted by interviewers of National Analysts, Inc., a private marketing research firm which is conducting the survey under contract. From the survey, people in farm organizations, food marketing, the food industries, and government agencies and also the general public will obtain a detailed picture of the current household market for food and information indicative of future market situations. Nutritionists and home economists will obtain an up to date appraisal of family diets for use in educational programs to guide families toward improved diets.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES

The general level of retail food prices will rise a little during the next few months. Part of the rise will come from seasonal shifts in supplies of individual foods, but extra pressure probably will be exerted by the effects of the freeze and wind damage to fruit and vegetable crops and by strong consumer demand. The outlook for food supplies is such as to make the price increases fairly short-run.

If market supplies of major foods for the next few months follow current indications, we are likely to see some increases in prices of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, potatoes, eggs, pork, and some cuts of beef. But prices of dairy products, poultry and fresh fish probably will go down. With more normal supplies of fresh vegetables, potatoes, and fresh fruits likely to become available in midsummer, prices of these items probably will show some decline at that time.

Prices received by farmers are not expected to change much, on the average, in the next few months.

Looking at the demand side, consumers' outlay for food may run slightly higher, even on a per capita basis, than in recent months. Although some of this increase will be seasonal, the pick-up in employment, wages and salaries in recent months will provide additional purchasing power for food.

Table 3.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1952-54, and preliminary indications for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954 Prel.	Preliminary indications for 1955	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Meats (carcass weight) - Total	125.3	146.5	144.3	153.8	153.7	158	126	108	103
Beef	54.8	64.7	61.5	76.8	79.2	78	142	121	98
Veal	8.1	9.6	7.1	9.5	10.0	10.0	123	104	100
Lamb and mutton	6.7	4.8	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.2	63	88	93
Pork (excluding lard)	55.7	67.4	71.6	62.9	60.0	66	118	98	110
Fish (edible weight) - Total	10.9	10.3	11.0	10.8	11.1	11.1	102	108	100
Fresh and frozen	5.3	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.1	2/	---	---	---
Canned 3/	4.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.4	2/	---	---	---
Cured	.8	.6	.6	.6	.6	2/	---	---	---
Poultry products									
Eggs (farm weight) - Number	296	380	405	404	414	397	134	104	96
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	13.2	18.5	23.1	22.5	23.8	22.5	170	122	95
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	2.1	3.2	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.3	205	134	88
Dairy products									
Total milk fat solids	31.2	29.2	27.3	26.7	27.1	27.4	88	94	101
Total nonfat milk solids	39.6	46.6	47.8	47.2	47.3	48.0	121	103	101
Cheese	5.5	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.9	144	114	104
Condensed and evaporated milk	16.5	19.8	17.4	17.2	16.8	16.8	102	85	100
Fluid milk and cream	330	359	352	349	349	353	107	98	101
Ice cream (product weight)	9.8	18.5	17.6	17.7	17.0	17.0	173	92	100
Fats and oils - Total, fat content 4/	44.8	41.8	43.6	43.6	45.3	44.9	100	107	99
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	16.8	10.5	8.6	8.5	9.0	9.3	55	89	103
Margarine (actual weight)	2.8	5.5	7.8	7.9	8.4	8.3	296	151	99
Lard	10.9	12.2	11.7	11.3	10.3	10.9	100	89	106
Shortening	11.6	9.5	10.0	10.1	11.6	10.6	91	112	91
Other edible fats and oils	6.4	7.2	8.6	8.9	9.4	9.2	144	128	98
Fruits									
Fresh (farm weight) - Total	137.1	130.3	110.5	107.7	103.7	101	74	78	97
Citrus	48.5	53.9	43.6	42.7	40.5	40.2	83	75	99
Apples (commercial)	30.2	25.2	21.1	20.1	19.2)	61	69	80	97
Other (excluding melons)	58.4	51.2	45.8	44.9	44.0)				
Processed									
Canned fruit	14.8	18.1	20.6	20.6	19.8	19.3	130	107	97
Canned juices	3.8	15.9	13.5	13.7	13.1	13.3	350	84	102
Frozen (including juices)	.8	3.2	6.5	7.0	7.3	7.7	962	241	105
Dried	5.7	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	2/	---	---	---
Vegetables									
Fresh, total commercial (farm weight) 5/	140	151	145	146	146	140	100	93	96
Canned	29.6	38.5	40.9	41.8	41.6	41.8	141	109	100
Frozen	6/.4	2.9	5.1	5.2	5.9	6.0	1,500	207	102
Potatoes (farm weight)	128	112	99	102	104	102	80	91	98
Sweetpotatoes (farm weight)	21.3	12.3	7.0	8.3	7.2	7.9	37	64	110
Dry edible beans	8.7	6.6	8.0	7.7	8.4	8.2	94	124	98
Dry field peas	.6	.6	.5	.5	.5	2/	---	---	---
Sugar, refined	96.7	93.5	96.1	96.8	96.3	96	99	103	100
Grains									
Corn products:									
Cornmeal	22.8	13.4	12.3	12.0	12.0	12.0	53	90	100
Corn sirup	7.6	9.8	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	114	89	100
Cornstarch	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	138	100	106
Corn sugar	2.7	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.7	137	88	100
Breakfast cereals	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	94	100	100
Hominy	1.4	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	186	93	100
Oat food products	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	89	100	100
Barley food products 7/	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	93	81	100
Wheat:									
Flour 8/	157	135	130	126	124	123	78	91	99
Breakfast cereals	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	94	100	100
Rye flour	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	64	100	100
Rice, milled	5.7	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.7	100	119	108
Beverages									
Coffee 9/	13.9	18.0	16.5	16.7	14.7	15.2	109	84	103
Tea	.66	.57	.62	.65	.68	.68	103	119	100
Cocoa beans	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.0	93	100	98
Peanuts (shelled)	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	2/	2/	---	---	---

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits, which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas, and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year, and rice, which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish, such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Computed from unrounded data. 5/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Barley used for food products in terms of malt equivalent. 8/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 9/ Green bean basis.

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

Back of this brighter economic outlook are the following strengthening elements. The decline in Federal Government outlays for defense and nondefense purposes has apparently leveled off. State and local government expenditures have been increasing. Expenditures by business for new plants and equipment are likely to run a little higher than a year earlier according to a recent survey. The reduction in business inventories has brought them into a much improved relationship to sales. An increase in the volume of retail sales is in prospect. These factors add up to prospects for a high level of industrial production for the spring and summer and perhaps record consumer income.

COMMODITY REVIEWS

Meats

A little more meat has been available to consumers during recent months than a year earlier and this situation is expected to continue through the spring and summer. The increase is in pork. Pork output in January-March ran about a sixth higher than the relatively low rate of early 1954.

During the next few months, meat supplies will continue above last year but the increase will be less than recently. Pork production, while remaining above the 1954 rate, will show a smaller gain than during January-March. The reason is that marketings from the larger 1954 fall pig crop were speeded by early farrowings and readiness for market. Supplies of hogs for early summer slaughter--the year's seasonal low--will be only moderately above last summer.

Even next fall we can expect larger pork supplies than a year earlier, as well as the usual seasonal increases. The 1955 spring pig crop, which will provide the hogs for fall slaughter, is likely to be about 6 percent larger than last spring's crop. Present indications point to seasonally early movement of these hogs too so that our pork supplies for early fall may run noticeably larger than in the fall of 1954.

Our beef supplies are expected to be as plentiful in the next few months as last spring. Some increase in the amount of better grade beef is in view because of the larger number of cattle now being fed in the Corn Belt. However, at times this summer beef supplies may be lower than last summer when cattle slaughter was unusually large because of the drought in some areas. But by fall, beef production and beef supplies are likely to be as high or higher than last fall.

Little or no change in lamb and mutton supplies for coming months from those of spring and summer of 1954 is indicated. A slight reduction may occur in the fall if more lambs are withheld from the market for feeding or breeding as seems likely.

In recent months, retail prices of pork have been considerably lower than in early 1954, but beef prices have been up a little. Veal and lamb have been selling at about same prices as year earlier. No more than slight seasonal shifts appear likely for meat prices in the next few months.

For 1955 as a whole, total meat consumption per person is forecast at 158 pounds, up nearly 4½ pounds from last year, with the increase in pork. This would be the highest rate since 1908. Supplies for civilian consumption will probably be increased from 1954 rate by smaller military takings. Imports of beef from Mexico will be primarily as live animals since Mexico has been declared free of foot-and-mouth disease. Lower domestic pork prices will encourage a return toward a net export position of pork. For the year, retail prices of pork will average considerably lower than the record high prices in 1954, but those of other meats will average close to or perhaps slightly above last year.

Fishery Products 1/

Total supplies of fresh and processed fishery products this spring are expected to continue larger than a year earlier, with the biggest increase in the processed commodities. Retail prices for the fishery products, judging from current BLS wholesale prices in primary markets, may average a little lower than last spring.

More fresh fishery products will be available than in the last few months as landings by commercial fishermen increase seasonally. More of the frozen products--especially haddock and halibut--will be available this spring than last. Cold-storage holdings on April 1 were up 15 percent, and commercial freezings will be expanding seasonally during the next few months. In addition, imports of frozen fish--particularly of fillets and blocks--probably will be at least as large this year as last.

Our supplies of canned fishery products are larger this spring because of heavier stocks of canned tuna, Maine sardines and Pacific sardines carried over from last year's packs, as well as the continued heavy imports of canned tuna and frozen tuna for canning. Although very little canned salmon is available at the packers' level, there appears to be a sufficient volume in the other channels of distribution to maintain civilian consumption of this product at about the same per capita rate as a year ago, at least until the 1955 packs start moving to market in volume after midyear. Production of canned salmon in 1954 was moderately larger than in 1953, but civilian consumption of this product thus far during the 1954-55 marketing season has been at a slightly higher rate than a year earlier.

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.

With total supplies of fishery products in the next few months likely to be larger than in spring 1954 and retail prices a little lower, civilian per capita consumption of these products may run a bit higher than in the spring and summer of 1954.

Poultry and Eggs

Egg production in the last half of 1955 is likely to be below the year before because of a sharp reduction in the number of chickens being raised by farmers for laying flock replacement. On April 1, the number of young chickens on farms was 28 percent below year-ago. This decrease is unlikely to be fully offset by increased hatchings in the remainder of the year, by reduced culling of hens, or by higher rates of lay per bird than last year.

Because of the prospective reduction in late summer and fall output, a substantial seasonal price rise for eggs is expected in contrast to last year when most egg prices failed to rise from spring to fall. Egg prices for the remainder of 1955 are likely to be above 1954, especially during the fall when the margin above 1954 is likely to be considerable.

Broiler supplies increased during April and will continue high to midyear, reflecting the rise in chick placements early in 1955 and the large placements in recent weeks. Prices are likely to be lower for the next few months than the average in the first 3½ months of 1955. Chick placements in the 10 weeks prior to late April were slightly above the year-ago levels. The record 1954 production levels resulted in depressed broiler prices practically all of that year.

If the prospective large marketings of broilers seriously depress broiler prices for a sustained period, the result may be to reduce broiler chick placements more than seasonally this summer, which would be followed by a reduction in broiler supplies in the last few months of the year. A reduction in supplies at that season would be largely offset, however, by the seasonally large supplies of other poultry then available, particularly farm chickens and turkeys. Farm fryers, which compete more directly with commercial fryers or broilers, would have been marketed earlier.

The 1955 production of light-breed turkeys is likely to be considerably below last year and output of heavy-breed birds may also be below last year, but by a smaller percentage.

Dairy Products

Production of milk is rising seasonally and will reach the highest point for the year in late May or early June, and will then decline seasonally through the late fall. Consumption of milk and dairy products has increased and should be maintained at a high level in 1955. However, supplies are likely to continue sufficiently large so that there will be no significant price increase for any of the major dairy products. Any surplus at prevailing prices over that taken by regular commercial outlets will be sold to the Department of Agriculture under the price-support program.

The surplus of dairy products has been considerably reduced in the last marketing year. The milk equivalent of USDA purchases under the support program in 1954-55 was 5¾ billion pounds compared with 11 billion pounds in 1953-54. Likewise, CCC holdings of surplus dairy products have been sharply reduced. As of March 30, 1955, CCC held 235 million pounds of butter compared with 440 million on July 1, 1954. Holdings of cheese on March 30 were 328 million pounds this year compared with 412 million pounds in mid-1954. Holdings of nonfat dry milk were reduced from 302 million pounds to 84 million pounds during the same period. The reduction of Government stocks of dairy products reflects the development of broader outlets for such products, as well as the purchase of smaller quantities. Legislation passed in 1954 authorizes the Department of Agriculture to pay transportation and packaging costs incident to the distribution of dairy products to some outlets, both foreign and domestic. Surplus stocks of dairy products are being disposed of at the rate of about 6 billion pounds per year, milk equivalent basis.

The reduced volume of purchases reflects a leveling off of milk production following 2 years of increase and a significant increase in consumption of milk and dairy products. In the last 12 months production of milk was 123 billion pounds compared with 122.4 billion a year earlier and 117 billion 2 years earlier. A further cut in the surplus is likely the rest of this year, bringing production and consumption more nearly into balance.

Fluid milk and cream account for about half the disappearance in civilian channels of all milk products. Consequently, a given percentage increase in fluid milk consumption represents a larger aggregate amount of milk than a similar increase in consumption of any other dairy product. In the last several months it appears that consumption of fluid milk has increased significantly. Latest data for 26 Federal order markets indicate a 4 percent increase over a year earlier. Part of this rise, of course, is due to expansion in the urban population. Other factors have been the increased distribution of milk to schools and personnel of the Armed Forces, some changes in merchandising methods, expanded consumer incomes and, in a number of cities, substantially lower retail prices for milk. Available data indicate that on the average there has been little change in the past year in the retail price per single quart for milk. However, the distribution of multiple quart containers has been introduced or expanded in a number of markets, which has resulted in lower cost per quart to consumers.

With slightly less milk being produced recently and more being consumed in fluid form, the quantity available for manufacturing has declined considerably. The reduction has been mainly in output of creamery butter and American cheese, the two items bought under the price-support program. In recent weeks output of butter and cheese has been 10 to 20 percent below the comparable period in 1954. Output of other manufactured dairy products has been close to that of last year.

Fats and Oils

Consumers will have plenty of food fats this spring and summer, probably at prices somewhat lower than a year ago.

More lard will be available than last year, mainly because of an expected 10 percent increase in hog slaughter and larger beginning stocks. Prices probably will be down substantially from last year's comparatively high level.

The 1954 soybean and cottonseed crops were big enough to provide ample quantities of vegetable oils for use in margarine, shortening, and cooking and salad oils. Lower prices for vegetable oils than a year ago are expected to be reflected in reduced prices for the finished products. Last spring and summer, commercial supplies of edible vegetable oils were tight as large quantities had been diverted to the Government under support programs. Prices rose because users had to purchase oil from the Government and the selling price for such oil was well above market prices. This is not expected to occur again in 1955.

Butter output is now increasing seasonally, although it is running below 1954. Retail prices probably will continue in close relationship to the level of price support for butterfat and about the same as last year. Support prices for butter in the dairy marketing year which began on April 1, 1955, are the same as the year before.

Civilians in 1955 may take slightly less food fats than the unusually high level of 45.3 pounds (fat content) per person in 1954. More butter and about the same amount of margarine will be used. More lard may be taken as supplies are expected to be up about 15 percent and probably will displace some vegetable shortening.

Supplies of butter at the end of 1955 are expected to be down from a year earlier, reflecting reduced output and increased domestic use and exports. Government disposal programs for butter account for some of the rise in domestic use and nearly all of the rise in exports.

Exports of all food fats have been at high levels in recent years and are expected to continue large in 1955.

Fruit

Although stocks of processed fruits for use during late spring and early summer are about as large as last spring, supplies of fresh fruit have been cut by the severe freeze damage to early-season fruits in late March and early April. During recent months, retail prices for various important fresh and processed fruits have tended to average a little under a year earlier. But with reduced supplies of early-season fresh fruits, prices of such fruits can be expected to run higher than in 1954. Prices for some processed fruits also may increase.

Supplies of early-season deciduous fruits coming from the South Central and Southeastern States will be quite short this year as a result of record-breaking low temperatures in late March. This will include reduced supplies of fresh strawberries in May and very few peaches and apples for fresh market from these States in June and July. The same freezes severely damaged other fruits in these States, such as plums, pears, cherries, and grapes, thus curtailing supplies of fruits that are used mainly for home consumption and local market sale. Damage to the pecan crop was heavy.

Low temperatures in the Sacramento Valley of California in early April caused some damage to peaches (mostly clingstone), apricots, plums, prunes, almonds, and walnuts. In other areas of California and in Northern States, prospects on April 1 continued favorable for fruits, pointing to about the usual supplies in late summer and fall. These other areas of California are an important source of fresh market peaches for June and July as well as in August. Most of the peaches, apricots, and various other fruits used for processing are grown in California.

Among fresh citrus fruits, supplies of oranges are expected to continue slightly larger this spring than last, and much heavier during the summer because of increased production of California Valencias. Retail prices for these Valencias are not expected to average as high as last summer. Although supplies of grapefruit will be moderately smaller this spring than last, they will be sufficient for the usual needs at retail prices much the same as in the spring of 1954. Because of smaller production, supplies of lemons probably will be somewhat lighter this summer than last. In early months of 1955 imports of bananas continued a little below those of a year earlier.

For late spring and early summer total supplies of processed fruits probably will be about as large this year as in 1954. Packers' stocks of canned apples and applesauce were much larger on March 1, 1955 than a year earlier. Stocks of canned pears and fruit cocktail, coming from increased 1954 packs, also probably were larger. But the inventory of most other items probably was down some. Cold-storage stocks of frozen deciduous fruits and frozen orange juice were a little larger on April 1, 1955 than a year earlier. In Florida output of frozen concentrated orange juice continues to lag slightly behind a year ago, while production of canned orange juice is up moderately. Total stocks of canned orange juice held by Florida packers on April 2, 1955 were about 13 percent larger than on that date in 1954. Total supplies of dried fruits are large enough to maintain per capita consumption at the rate of a year ago.

Vegetables

A smaller supply of fresh vegetables is expected to be available this spring than last, and at higher prices than a year earlier, because of the destruction or damage to crops caused by drought extending into early spring plus freezes and strong winds late in March in a number of important producing areas in the Southeastern and South Central States. In the latter part of the spring, vegetable supplies are expected to be larger than during the middle of the season. Forecasts for crops which

accounted for half of last year's spring production point to a 7 percent smaller tonnage this spring. Among the important spring vegetables for which indications are available, substantially smaller crops than last year are expected for snap beans, cabbage, celery, and cucumbers; and moderate reductions for cauliflower, sweet corn, lettuce, early-spring onions, and tomatoes. Offsetting these declines in part are the increases in prospect for asparagus, broccoli, carrots and spinach.

With consumers' incomes expected to remain high, the demand for fresh vegetables will likely be close to that of a year earlier. Supplies available this summer will depend in large part on growing conditions, since the acreage planted to vegetables probably will not differ substantially from that of last summer. Reports available to date point to a prospective 10 percent larger acreage of watermelons for summer harvest this year than last, and plantings about equal to a year ago for both summer cabbage and onions.

Less canned and frozen vegetables than the heavy supplies of a year ago are available for distribution until the new packs start moving to market in volume after midyear. Among the major processed vegetables only snap beans and sweet corn will be in larger supply. With supplies of most fresh vegetables likely to be smaller this spring than last, consumption of both canned and frozen vegetables probably will continue at a little higher rate than a year earlier at least until about mid-1955. Retail prices of processed vegetables this spring may average a bit higher than earlier in the year, but are expected to be close to those of spring 1954.

The packs of both canned and frozen vegetables in 1955 probably will not differ substantially from the volume produced last year, if growing conditions for the crop of processing vegetables are average. Reports to date on prospective plantings point to a winter and early-spring acreage of processing spinach about as large as in 1954, a moderate acreage increase for tomatoes, and a little increase for both green peas and beets. But these increases are moderately offset by the fairly large reductions in prospect for the acreage planted to snap beans, sweet corn and cucumbers for pickles, and in the acreage contracted for kraut cabbage. The prospective acreage for these 8 crops adds up to a 3 percent decline from the corresponding plantings last year.

In general, potato supplies until late this spring are expected to continue a little smaller than a year earlier. With consumer demand for potatoes likely to be about the same as last spring, retail prices for this season as a whole probably will average somewhat higher than in April-June 1954.

The supply situation in prospect for this spring reflects both the smaller than a year earlier stocks of storage potatoes remaining to be marketed and the damage to 1955 spring crop by unfavorable growing conditions earlier in the year. The early-spring crop will in general be marketed a little later this year than usual. Because of much larger plantings in California this year, the late-spring crop is expected to be about as large as last year's despite considerable damage by adverse weather in late March and early April to the crop in Alabama and other southern late-spring potato areas.

Potato supplies during the summer and fall may be at least as large as a year earlier, providing growing conditions are normal. Reports received in early March indicate that farmers intend to plant almost as many acres to potatoes in the intermediate- and late-crop States as in 1954. Last year yields in some of the important producing areas in these States were reduced by unfavorable growing conditions.

Sweetpotatoes will continue in smaller supply this year than last until the 1955 crop starts moving to market in volume this summer. The current supply situation reflects the 13 percent smaller crop last year than in 1953. Retail prices for sweetpotatoes probably will remain well above a year earlier into the summer, and then decline seasonally as marketing of the 1955 crop gathers momentum.

With average growing conditions, production of sweetpotatoes this year is expected to be larger than in 1954. Reports earlier this year indicated that farmers planned to plant as many acres to sweetpotatoes this year as last. Yields on the intended acreage equal to the 1949-53 average would produce a crop about 12 percent larger than in 1954, although about 25 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Last year unfavorable growing conditions reduced yields in many of the southern States.

Cereal Food Products

The supplies of grains now on hand and planting intentions of farmers reported by the March survey indicate a continued abundance of grains for processing into cereals and bakery products and large supplies for feed.

The wheat crop will be considerably reduced this year by acreage controls in order to bring supplies closer to demand. On April 1 we had 1,212 million bushels in stocks, a fourth again more than we need for domestic use and export in a year.

Retail prices of flour and bread have been averaging slightly higher than in early 1954. With the lowering of the support price for wheat this summer from $2.24 to $2.06, we can expect some reduction in flour prices. The price of flour is such a small part of bread production costs that bread prices may not change noticeably.

Very large stocks of rice remain from last year's record crop. Exports of rice haven't been nearly as large as expected. Farmers reported as of March 1 that they intended to plant fewer acres to rice than the allotments would permit. Per capita consumption may average somewhat higher in 1954-55 than in the preceding year, partly because rice is being distributed by the Department of Agriculture to schools, institutions, and needy persons. Retail prices have been a little below those of early 1954. Unless exports increase considerably, the heavy carryover and relatively large crop expected this year may keep prices at a lower level than in 1954.

Continued plentiful supplies of corn, oats, and barley indicate no supply problems for food commodities processed from them. Sales of corn sirup and starch for domestic food uses were a little larger in the early part of 1955 than in the same period of 1954, while sales of corn sugar were somewhat smaller. Per capita consumption of these products has remained well above prewar (1935-39) average in recent years, although it has been below the high level reached during the war. Data are not collected on current production of other corn products or oat products for food use. However, consumption of cornmeal, particularly for farm household use, has been substantially lower in recent years than before the war. Available information indicates that there also has been a decline in per capita consumption of oatmeal, but this has been at least partly offset by the increase in ready-to-eat oat cereals.

Retail prices of cornmeal and corn flakes were slightly higher in March this year than last, while wholesale prices of cornstarch, sugar and sirup were practically the same.

The significant feature of the large supplies of corn, oats, barley and other grains used for feed is their probable effect on supplies of livestock products in the next year or so.

Although much depends on the 1955 growing season, early indications point to another big supply of feed grains in 1955-56 fully ample to maintain the production of meat, milk, and eggs at a high level. If farmers carry out their plans of early March, the acreage planted to corn this year will be about the same as in 1954. Acreage of oats will be 1 percent larger and that for barley 9 percent larger. If yields, by States, on the prospective acreages equal the 1949-53 average, production of these 3 grains would be 2 percent more than in 1954. Including an allowance for the big carryover stocks in prospects, supplies of corn and barley for 1955-56 would be larger than the big supplies in 1954-55 and the oat supply nearly as large as the near record supply last year.

Sugar

Movement of sugar into domestic distribution channels has been running about 5 percent less than in the early part of 1954. However, supplies of sugar are at least adequate to meet all domestic demand. As warm weather develops, some step-up in demand from industrial users and consumers is expected.

Sugar prices at retail are fractionally lower than a year ago, according to the surveys of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Domestic production of sugar beets will be substantially reduced this year largely due to the imposition of acreage allotments for the first time since 1939. Supplies of sugar from domestic production exceeded the quotas for the mainland areas last year. Also, very large supplies are available in Cuba and other offshore areas which can be made available if unusual demand should develop.

MARCH REPORT ON FARMERS' INTENTIONS TO PLANT

The Agricultural Marketing Service issues a report on farmers' intentions to plant in March each year. The information from the 1955 report has been evaluated and incorporated in each of preceding commodity statements where pertinent. In summary, we wish to point out that the intentions indicate no change from the general forecast of continued abundance of food supplies. But they do indicate that farmers intended as of March 1 to make some rather sharp shifts from 1954 planted acreages of several major crops pointing toward more feedstuffs. The major reductions are in crops for which carryover supplies are large and for which production control programs are in operation. If these plans materialize, the total acreage of spring-planted crops will be up just a little from last season. See tables 4 and 5.

Decreases of over a half-million acres of durum wheat, 1.4 million acres of other spring wheat, two-thirds of a million acres of rice, along with small decreases in flax, peanuts, tobacco, and sugar beets, are now in prospect. These would be more than offset by increases of 1.6 million acres of hay crops, 1.4 million acres of sorghums, 1¼ million acres each of barley and soybeans, and smaller increases in corn, oats, potatoes, dry beans, and dry peas.

Although this report provides the first clues to 1955 spring sown crops, care must be taken to avoid putting too much emphasis on exact acreages or possible production computed with indicated acreages and average yields (as given in table 7). In fact, the purpose of the report is to assist growers generally in making such further changes in their acreage plans as may appear desirable. The acreages actually planted in 1955 may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated, by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions, the agricultural program, and the effect of this report itself upon farmers' actions. Supplies of fertilizer, equipment and farm labor do not appear to be limiting factors this season.

The plantings report was begun in the midtwenties with indications of percentage changes from the preceding year. In 1929 it was changed over to give interpretations of farmers' intentions in the form of acreage estimates. The survey is conducted by sending out cards in late February for farmers to report their own acreage intentions. About 90,000 farmers reported on their plans this year.

Prospective acreages may be compared with acreages allotted under acreage control programs for only a few crops. For wheat, the prospective 1,112,000 acres of durum and 12,848,000 acres of other spring wheat, plus 43,442,000 acres of winter wheat already sown, add to 57,402,000 acres; this is about 4 percent above the national allotment of 55 million acres for this grain. However, this does not necessarily mean wheat farmers have exceeded their allotments since allotments for this year are on the harvested acreage. Durum growers at the time they made their reports had not been fully informed of the amendment to the

Table 4.- Planted acreage of major crops, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1954, and prospective plantings for 1955, with percentage comparisons

Crop	Planted acreage			Prospective plantings 1955 1/	Prospective 1955 as a percentage of		
	1935-39	1947-49	1954		1935-39	1947-49	1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total 2/	323,739	333,464	331,529	331,991	103	100	100
Corn, all	97,044	85,768	81,893	82,033	84	96	100
Wheat, all	73,236	80,188	61,971	57,402	78	72	93
Winter	51,577	59,252	46,084	43,442	84	73	94
Spring, all	21,659	20,936	15,887	13,960	64	67	88
Oats	40,591	43,071	47,284	47,664	117	111	101
Barley	13,365	12,059	14,517	15,776	118	131	109
Flaxseed	1,938	4,911	5,959	5,743	296	117	96
Rice	1,007	1,809	2,462	1,800	179	100	73
All sorghums	15,254	11,852	19,882	21,322	140	180	107
Potatoes	3,123	1,940	1,423	1,434	46	74	101
Sweetpotatoes	804	501	354	354	44	71	100
Beans, dry edible	1,917	1,929	1,714	1,788	93	93	104
Soybeans, for beans 3/	3,042	10,858	17,037	4/18,100	595	167	106
Soybeans, grown alone 5/	7,262	12,304	18,753	19,981	275	162	107
Hay, all 3/	67,940	72,649	72,770	74,360	109	102	102
Tobacco 3/	1,647	1,676	1,645	1,561	95	93	95
Peas, dry field	281	414	287	295	105	71	103
Peanuts, picked and threshed 3/	1,659	2,994	1,368	6/1,526	92	51	112
Peanuts, grown alone 5/	2,173	3,561	1,932	1,914	88	54	99
Sugar beets	891	845	963	833	94	99	86

1/ From March 1955 Prospective Plantings Report and December 20, 1954 Winter Wheat and Rye Report.

2/ Includes "Soybeans, for beans" and "Peanuts, picked and threshed."

3/ Harvested acreage.

4/ 1955 indicated solid equivalent acreage adjusted for the percentage harvested for beans by using the 1953-54 average percentages, by States.

5/ For all purposes.

6/ Assuming the 1949-53 average relationship of acreages planted alone to acreages for picking and threshing, by States.

Table 5.- Prospective and actual acreages planted in major crops, 1952-54, with percentage comparisons 1/

Crop	1952			1953			1954		
	Prospective	Actual	Actual as percentage of prospective	Prospective	Actual	Actual as percentage of prospective	Prospective	Actual	Actual as percentage of prospective
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Total	276,778	272,073	98	276,006	276,815	100	287,518	287,725	100
Corn, all	83,928	82,409	98	81,764	81,730	100	81,037	81,893	101
Spring wheat	21,998	21,607	98	21,600	21,791	101	16,657	15,887	95
Oats	42,818	42,766	100	43,777	43,875	100	47,256	47,284	100
Barley	9,752	9,359	96	9,357	9,659	103	14,095	14,517	103
Flaxseed	3,935	3,444	88	4,142	4,640	112	5,383	5,959	111
Rice	1,971	2,006	102	2,119	2,174	103	2,360	2,462	104
All sorghums	13,442	12,381	92	14,666	14,651	100	18,664	19,882	107
Potatoes	1,373	1,421	103	1,509	1,549	103	1,364	1,423	104
Sweetpotatoes	334	333	100	367	357	97	357	354	99
Tobacco 2/	1,804	1,772	98	1,659	1,631	98	1,630	1,645	101
Beans, dry edible	1,414	1,307	92	1,332	1,436	108	1,640	1,714	105
Peas, dry field	267	228	85	234	282	121	321	287	89
Soybeans 3/	15,457	15,927	103	15,862	16,367	103	18,075	18,753	104
Peanuts 3/	2,158	1,940	90	1,958	1,882	96	1,942	1,932	99
All hay 2/	75,380	74,454	99	74,859	73,996	99	75,793	72,770	96
Sugar beets	747	719	96	801	795	99	944	963	102

1/ Based on the prospective planted acreages indicated by farmers' reported March 1 intentions.
2/ Acreage harvested.
3/ Grown alone for all purposes. Data are partly duplicated in hay acreage.

program permitting them to overplant their allotments. Corn acreage allotments for 1955 in commercial areas represent a reduction of about 10 percent from the acreage planted in 1954, which is equivalent to nearly 7 percent of the 1954 national total. However, prospective plantings are a little over the total 1954 planted acreage. The tobacco acreage control program does not cover all types--prospective acreage of all tobacco is 5 percent less than the 1954 acreage. Prospective acreage of peanuts to be grown alone is 1 percent less than in 1954, and the acreage to be picked and threshed is not likely to exceed allotments. For rice, the intended planting of 1,800,000 acres compares with allotments of 1,849,152 acres in the 5 States for which estimates are made.

The acreage of food grains will be sharply smaller than last season. The planted acreage of winter wheat was 2.6 million acres less than for the 1954 crop and the intended spring wheat total is 1.9 million acres less. The rye acreage was increased a fourth--to over 5 million acres--and acreage for harvest may be almost as much larger than last year. Rice growers plan to reduce their acreage by over a fourth to keep within State acreage allotments.

No forecasts of production are made now, but if prospective acreages are realized and if yields should equal the 1949-53 average, by States, an aggregate of 125 million tons of feed grains would be produced. Such a total would be exceeded only by the 135 million tons in 1948. The 1954 feed grain total was 121.6 million tons.

Much of the acreage diverted from allotment crops seems likely to go into pasture and hay crops. A hay acreage of 1.6 million acres larger than in 1954 results from increases in a majority of the States. Of 10 States showing smaller hay acreages, declines are sharp only in Indiana and Illinois. Major increases are expected in the South, the Plains States and the West.

A sharp increase in soybean acreage--1,228,000 acres--will keep oilseed potential production at a high level, despite a reduction from last year of 216,000 acres of flax and 18,000 acres of peanuts, while cotton acreage allotments are at present nearly 2 million acres less than the 1954 planted acreage. Announcement on March 16 of price supports at 70 percent of parity for soybeans may lead to some reconsideration of plans for that crop.

For potatoes, smaller acreages are expected in most States, but increases in Florida, Alabama and California early potatoes, and in Idaho, result in a total of nearly 1 percent larger than in 1954. Offsetting shifts among States in sweetpotatoes result in virtually the same total as in 1954.

Because of the significance of carryover stocks to farmers' intentions to plant, as well as to acreage control programs, a table with estimated stocks as of January 1 for recent years has been prepared. See table 6.

Table 6.- Estimated stocks of selected farm commodities on January 1, 1952-55 with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Unit	Holdings on January 1				
		1952	1953	1954	1955	1955 as percentage of 1952-54 average
Corn 2/	Mil. bu.	2,357	2,558	2,682	2,799	111
Wheat 2/	Mil. bu.	853	1,106	1,332	1,460	133
Oats 2/	Mil. bu.	913	859	837	1,016	117
Barley 2/	Mil. bu.	203	164	178	284	156
Flaxseed 3/	Mil. bu.	29	27	35	31	103
Rice, rough basis 4/	Mil. lb.	2,764	2,492	3,138	5/4,555	163
All sorghums 2/	Mil. bu.	149	54	79	189	201
Potatoes 6/	Mil. bu.	115	134	148	138	105
Sweetpotatoes 7/	1,000 bu.	8,949	8,458	9,542	8,715	97
Beans, dry edible 8/	Mil. lb.	1,530	1,203	1,171	1,144	88
Soybeans 3/	Mil. lb.	220	226	190	261	123
Tobacco 9/	Mil. lb.	4,257	4,484	4,501	4,760	108
Peanuts, farmers' stock basis 10/	Mil. lb.	1,138	1,028	1,223	640	57
Sugar, raw 11/	1,000 short tons	1,763	1,621	1,639	1,927	115

1/ Include CCC holdings.

2/ On farms, at terminal markets, and in interior mills, elevators, and warehouses.

3/ On farms, at terminal markets, in processing plants, and interior mills, elevators and warehouses.

4/ On farms and in mills and warehouses. Include heads, seconds, screenings, and brewers' rice.

5/ Estimated.

6/ Include merchantable stocks in hands of growers and local dealers in areas where produced plus seed plus quantities saved both for seed and food use on farms where grown.

7/ Include commercial stocks for sale as of Jan. 1 and quantities saved for seed and for consumption on farms where grown.

8/ On farms and in commercial warehouses.

9/ Owned by dealers and manufacturers. Farm-sales weight for domestic types and unstemmed equivalent weight for imported types.

10/ Commercial; exclude stocks on farms but include stocks owned by CCC and stocks held by cooperative associations on which CCC has advanced loans.

11/ Held by primary distributors.

NEW SURVEY OF FOOD CONSUMPTION 1/

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is sponsoring a survey this spring among a cross section of American households to obtain current information on patterns of food consumption, expenditures, and dietary levels. This survey of "Food Consumption of Households in the United States, Spring 1955" is part of the broad program of the Department to assist in the marketing and utilization of farm products. This project is being carried on jointly by the Agricultural Research Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

A private marketing research firm, National Analysts, Inc., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is conducting the survey under contract with the Department. A sample of about 6,000 households in 42 States will be contacted by representatives of this company. Housewives in these households will be asked questions about how much of each food item was consumed in the preceding week; what was the cost or value of each item; whether it was fresh, frozen or canned; whether the food was bought, grown at home or received as a gift and so on. Information will also be obtained on household size and type, family income, place of residence, and on other family characteristics for use in the classification of the households for analysis of the data.

The facts obtained from all of these interviews will be processed and published in considerable detail. For most individual food items the Department will publish as rapidly as possible the percentages of households using the items during the survey week, the average quantity consumed, and average cost or money value for purchased items. Most of the food items will be shown separately by form (i.e., whether the item was obtained in the fresh, frozen, or canned state). Information on the sources of many items will be summarized separately, i.e., whether they were purchased or received without direct cost either as gifts or home produced.

The reports of the individual households surveyed will be grouped (1) by regions--Northeast, North Central, South and West, the groupings of the Bureau of the Census; (2) as rural farm, rural nonfarm and urban; and (3) by several family income classes. Just about all of the data collected will be tabulated and published with these major breakdowns.

Thus, the results of this survey will give a comprehensive picture of the American food consumption patterns and dietary levels in the spring of 1955. People in farm organizations, food marketing, the food industries and government agencies as well as the general public will obtain a detailed picture of how the household market for food stands now, as well as information indicative of future market situations.

1/ Prepared by Thomas J. Lanahan, Jr., Consumption Section, Statistical and Historical Research Branch, AMS.

For example, the survey results will show the areas of low and high consumption for various products in the present-day food consumption picture. Such data should be helpful to food marketers in figuring where they might attempt to concentrate their merchandising efforts. Also, such data will be useful in developing estimates of the potential demand for individual foods, taking into consideration the apparent effects of major economic and social factors on consumption. An example of this is the data on food consumption by family income class which will be useful in analyzing the probable effect of income changes on the demand for particular food products.

This is the first detailed study of nationwide food consumption conducted since 1942. Another national study was made in 1935-36. A third survey made in 1948 covered only urban households. Selected rural areas have been covered in small surveys. People interested in studying the changing American food market will be able to compare the findings of the 1955 survey with past surveys. Such analyses reveal some of the changes in the structure of the food market which underlie trends in food consumption, particularly those resulting from changes in economic factors such as income.

Somewhat less detailed data will also be available on the weekly expenditures for meals and other food bought and eaten away from home, on the extent of home food production and home baking, canning, and freezing. Special information is being collected on the use of food in ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook forms and on the availability of home freezing facilities.

Data on food consumption obtained from the survey will be useful for other purposes. Information on foods purchased by rural farm households will provide part of the information needed for modernization of the food weights of the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers. This index is used by the Department in the calculation of farm parity prices. Home economists and nutritionists will again obtain data on the nutritive value of family food use. Such data are useful in setting up educational programs to guide families in improving their diets.

The processing, organization and review of the data will take many months but plans call for the release of some preliminary data from the survey early in 1956. The National Food Situation will carry reports on the survey.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT 1/

The Department's food distribution programs are designed both to assist in a long-term expansion in domestic food markets as well as to help provide for the increased use of foods currently available in plentiful or surplus supply.

In the operation of these programs, first emphasis is placed upon expanding food markets through normal channels of trade. However, in the event that Government purchases are necessary to stabilize markets, a

1/ By Isabelle Kelley, Food Distribution Division, AMS.

program is available to help insure that, whenever possible, the foods so purchased are used to improve dietary levels.

The Department's food distribution activities currently include: (1) The National School Lunch Program, which assists schools to operate nonprofit lunch programs; (2) The Special School Milk Program, designed to increase the consumption of milk among children in schools; (3) The Plentiful Foods Program, under which cooperative industry-government efforts are undertaken to increase the use of plentiful foods through trade merchandising and promotion campaigns; and (4) Direct Distribution, whereby surplus foods acquired by the Department are moved into consumption channels by making them available to groups with limited food budgets.

Each of these distribution programs uses a different approach in attempting to achieve their common objective of the broadening and expansion of food markets. Serving of more and better balanced lunches at school, increased consumer purchases of foods in plentiful supply, and larger use of surplus foods in school lunch programs and among needy groups, all contribute to the stabilization and expansion of present markets for agricultural products. And, as these programs help to improve the diets and food habits of participating groups, they are helping to build the base for a permanent expansion in domestic food markets.

From time to time, the National Food Situation will present reports on these food distribution activities. The following report on the National School Lunch Program is the first of this series.

Part I - The National School Lunch Program

A total of 11 million children--about one-third of those attending school--are participating in the National School Lunch Program this year. This is setting a new record, approximately 9 percent above peak participation last year, and continues the steady year-to-year growth in the program since the passage of the National School Lunch Act in June 1946.

Almost 1.8 billion lunches will be served under the program this year, of which 80 percent will be Type A lunches. This is the complete lunch, designed to meet at least one-third of a child's daily nutritive requirements. Most of the remainder will consist of one-half pint of milk, which is known as a Type C meal. These will be served in schools without facilities for preparation of lunches or as supplements to lunches brought from home.

Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program receive food assistance for their lunch programs in the form of cash payments and commodities. The cash payments, together with other funds available to the school, are used to make local purchases of food used in the program. Some of the commodities provided to the schools are purchased specifically for school lunch use with part of the annual school lunch appropriation; others are made available from supplies acquired by the Department under price support or surplus removal operations.

State educational agencies play a very important role in the operation of the program. Under the provisions of the National School Lunch Act, they are responsible for program administration within the various States. It is the State educational agency that selects schools for participation, makes the cash payments to schools from funds advanced to them by the Department of Agriculture, and generally supervises lunchroom operations in the individual schools.

To be eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program, a school must agree to 3 basic program requirements: (1) Operate its lunch program on a nonprofit basis; (2) serve meals meeting nutritional standards established by the Department of Agriculture; and (3) offer the lunch at a reduced price or free to those children unable to pay the full price of the lunch. This year, it is estimated that approximately 9 percent of the meals will be served free or at a specially reduced price.

The nutritional standards established by the Department are expressed in terms of the broad food categories that make up a balanced meal. The Type A lunch consists of at least a 2-ounce serving of a protein-rich food, three-quarters of a cup of fruit or vegetable or both, a serving of bread and butter or fortified margarine, and one-half pint of fluid milk as a beverage. In this manner, while the nutritional balance of the meal is insured, each participating school is able to develop menus that are adapted both to local food preferences and to local food supplies.

The Department of Agriculture also establishes the maximum rates of cash assistance (or reimbursement) that may be paid participating schools. The maximum rate of Federal assistance for the Type A meal is 9 cents. However, because of the steady expansion of the program, Federal funds are not sufficient to permit the maximum rate in most States. It is estimated that the national average payment for Type A lunches will be close to 4.5 cents from Federal funds this year.

Commodity donations are the second type of assistance provided to participating schools. Each year, approximately $15 million of the school lunch appropriation is reserved by the Department to make large-volume purchases of food for the program. These foods are usually called "Section 6" foods, after the section of the National School Lunch Act which authorizes such purchases. The foods purchased under Section 6 are those that will help meet the established meal-type standards and those that are good sources of some of the nutrients commonly lacking in children's diets. In recent years, such purchases have consisted mainly of protein and vitamin C foods and other processed fruits and vegetables.

Surplus foods are a third important source of supplemental food assistance to participating schools. In fact, nonprofit school lunch programs have first priority on the supplies of any food the Department acquires under its price-support and surplus removal programs. The kinds

and amount of assistance provided in the form of surplus foods varies from year to year, depending upon market conditions. Currently, large quantities of these foods are being provided to schools. For example, this year it is expected that approximately $66 million worth of surplus foods will be used by schools. Among the foods made available this year are butter, cheese, dry milk, dry beans, rice, and canned beef. All of these foods provide valuable assistance to schools in helping make possible the service of well-balanced and reasonably priced lunches.

Even though school lunches provide one of the most constructive ways of moving Government-held surpluses into consumption channels, most of the food used in the program is purchased by the individual schools from local wholesalers, retailers and producers. This year--even with a large volume of donated foods--it is estimated that approximately 75 percent of the value of all food used in the lunches will be purchased from local suppliers.

Thus, the National School Lunch Program is expanding markets for food in thousands of communities throughout the country. Last year, the local food purchases of participating schools totaled $278 million. This year, with increased participation, the value of such local purchases will be even larger.

Of the $278 million spent locally for food last year, the Federal cash food assistance payments represented $67.3 million. The remaining amount was from the payments made by children for their lunch, contributions by sources within the States--contributions of State or local governments, donations from civic or fraternal organizations. Thus, each dollar of Federal food assistance was accompanied by the expenditure of an additional $3.00 of State or local money for food in the regular channels of trade.

The service of well-balanced school lunches is now helping to improve the diets of many of our school children. At the same time, it is creating a larger market for food in normal channels of trade and providing a constructive outlet for surplus commodities acquired by the Department. Moreover, as the good food habits acquired by eating well-balanced lunches are carried over into adult life, the program's effect upon the expansion of food markets will be progressive and cumulative.

Table 7.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1952-54, and preliminary indications for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954 Prel.	Preliminary indications for 1955 2/	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
Meats (carcass weight)										
Beef	Mil. lb.	6,937	9,649	9,667	12,444	12,994	13,000	187	135	100
Veal	Mil. lb.	1,038	1,454	1,173	1,559	1,664	1,700	164	117	102
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	870	716	648	729	735	700	80	98	95
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil. lb.	7,337	10,281	11,547	10,063	10,010	10,900	149	106	109
Total meats	Mil. lb.	16,182	22,100	23,035	24,795	25,403	26,300	163	119	104
Fish (edible weight)										
Fresh and frozen	Mil. lb.	615	706	730	660	685	3/	---	--	---
Canned 4/	Mil. lb.	337	484	422	412	453	3/	---	--	---
Cured	Mil. lb.	74	70	68	62	62	3/	---	---	---
Total fish	Mil. lb.	1,026	1,260	1,220	1,134	1,200	3/	---	---	---
Poultry and eggs										
Eggs	Mil. doz.	3,335	5,086	5,590	5,713	5,993	5,800	174	114	97
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	1,730	2,753	3,648	3,711	3,949	3,850	223	140	97
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	288	492	773	725	816	750	260	152	92
Dairy products										
Total milk 5/	Bil. lb.	105.9	116.3	115.6	121.4	123.7	123.7	117	106	100
Cheese 6/	Mil. lb.	673	1,160	1,170	1,345	1,354	1,310	195	113	97
Condensed and evaporated milk	Mil. lb.	2,225	3,497	3,165	2,878	2,875	2,990	134	86	104
Ice cream (product weight)	Mil. lb.	1,279	2,758	2,840	2,893	2,841	2,890	226	105	102
Fats and oils										
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	2,195	1,611	1,417	1,629	1,661	1,600	73	99	96
Lard 7/	Mil. lb.	1,630	2,419	2,886	2,368	2,362	2,675	164	111	113
Margarine (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	372	839	1,286	1,292	1,364	1,380	371	164	101
Shortening	Mil. lb.	1,529	1,434	1,611	1,675	1,961	1,800	118	126	92
Other edible fats and oils 8/	Mil. lb.	2,157	3,912	4,958	5,389	5,470	5,300	246	135	97
Total fats and oils (fat content) 9/	Mil. lb.	5,554	7,627	8,985	9,068	9,169	9,263	167	121	101
Fruits										
Fresh										
Citrus	Mil. lb.	6,875	8,782	7,729	7,838	7,576	7,750	113	88	102
Apples (commercial)	Mil. lb.	4,385	3,791	3,290	3,196	3,400)	7,150	79	86	94
Other (excluding melons)	Mil. lb.	4,648	4,508	4,287	4,171	4,200)				
Processed										
Canned fruit	Mil. lb.	1,705	2,591	2,780	2,876	2,950	2,800	164	108	95
Canned fruit juices	Mil. lb.	333	2,230	1,866	1,924	2,000	1,940	583	87	97
Frozen (including juice)	Mil. lb.	106	416	1,008	1,254	1,275	1,300	1,226	312	102
Dried	Mil. lb.	1,118	1,008	918	863	815	3/	---	---	---
Vegetables										
Fresh, total commercial 10/	Mil. lb.	18,565	23,041	23,649	25,066	24,902	24,300	131	105	98
Canned	Mil. lb.	4,030	6,064	7,318	7,184	6,783	7,000	174	115	103
Frozen	Mil. lb.	11/78	452	896	1,077	984	1,060	1,359	235	108
Potatoes	Mil. bu.	355	414	349	380	355	370	104	89	104
Sweetpotatoes	Mil. bu.	68	46	29	34	30	34	50	74	113
Dry edible beans 12/	Mil. lb.	1,360	1,854	1,501	1,682	1,700	1,850	136	100	109
Dry field peas 12/	Mil. lb.	229	401	238	297	308	305	133	76	99
Canned baby foods	Mil. lb.	37	469	562	666	683	700	1,892	149	102
Sugar, raw basis	1,000 short tons	1,948	2,065	2,102	2,375	2,610	2,400	123	116	92
Grains										
Wheat	Mil. bu.	759	1,251	1,299	1,169	970	839	111	67	86
Rye	Mil. bu.	44.9	23.1	16.0	18.2	23.7	28.0	62	121	118
Rice, milled	Mil. lb.	1,340	2,333	3,097	3,116	3,370	3,853	288	165	114
Corn, grain only	Mil. bu.	2,050	2,788	2,977	2,876	2,652	2,800	137	100	106
Oats	Mil. bu.	1,045	1,294	1,260	1,209	1,500	1,360	130	105	91
Barley	Mil. bu.	239	279	226	243	370	365	153	131	99
Peanuts, farmers' stock basis	Mil. lb.	1,230	2,128	1,366	1,588	1,044	3/	---	---	---

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits on a pack-year beginning year indicated; rice on a marketing year ending year indicated. 2/ Preliminary indications based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreages and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These estimates are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1955, but they are based on such official estimates of production as are available at this time. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Board of the Department. 3/ Not available. 4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 5/ Includes farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board and an allowance for nonfarm production ranging from 2.3 billion pounds in 1935-39 down to 0.2 billion in 1955. 6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese. 7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products. 8/ Includes cottonseed, peanut, soybean, corn, edible olive, and oleo oils, oleo stock, oleostearine, and edible tallow later processed into margarine, shortening, cooking and salad oils, etc., and nonfood items. 9/ Includes butter, lard, and "other fats and oils." 10/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets; includes quantities not harvested and use of a few minor vegetables for processing. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 11/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 12/ Cleaned basis.

Table 8.- Retail food prices and total consumer price index, United States, 1945-53 and 1954-55 by months

(Index numbers, 1947-49=100)

Year and month	Meats 1/	Eggs	Dairy products 2/	Fats and oils 3/	Cereals and bakery products	Fruits and vegetables	Sugar and sweets	Beverages	All foods 4/	Consumer price index
1945	56	81	70	69	66	87	72	61	69	77
1946	69	83	86	84	76	89	81	68	79	83
1947	94	99	97	110	94	98	102	92	96	96
1948	106	102	106	108	103	100	98	100	104	103
1949	100	99	97	82	103	102	100	108	100	102
1950	105	85	96	80	104	98	102	153	101	103
1951	117	104	107	94	114	107	106	169	113	111
1952	116	95	112	79	117	117	106	170	115	114
1953	110	5/	110	5/	119	114	5/	5/	112	114
1954	108	5/	106	5/	122	112	5/	5/	112	115
Jan.	110	5/	110	5/	121	111	5/	5/	113	115
Feb.	110	5/	109	5/	121	108	5/	5/	112	115
Mar.	110	5/	108	5/	121	108	5/	5/	111	115
Apr.	110	5/	105	5/	121	110	5/	5/	112	115
May	111	5/	104	5/	121	115	5/	5/	113	115
June	111	5/	103	5/	121	117	5/	5/	113	115
July	110	5/	104	5/	122	120	5/	5/	114	115
Aug.	108	5/	105	5/	122	115	5/	5/	113	115
Sept.	107	5/	106	5/	123	110	5/	5/	112	115
Oct.	104	5/	107	5/	123	111	5/	5/	111	114
Nov.	104	5/	107	5/	123	110	5/	5/	110	115
Dec.	102	5/	107	5/	123	108	5/	5/	109	114
1955										
Jan.	102	5/	106	5/	123	111	5/	5/	109	114
Feb.	102	5/	106	5/	124	111	5/	5/	110	114
Mar.	102	5/	105	5/	124	112	5/	5/	110	114

1/ Includes chicken and fish.
2/ Includes butter.
3/ Excludes butter.
4/ Includes only foods consumed at home.
5/ Not reported separately.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indexes for commodity groups prior to 1953 adjusted to 1947-49 base from the published series on 1935-39 base. The Consumer Price Index revision, beginning 1953, has been described in the Monthly Labor Review.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS-NFS-72-4/55

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:
Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Reserve
941
F73

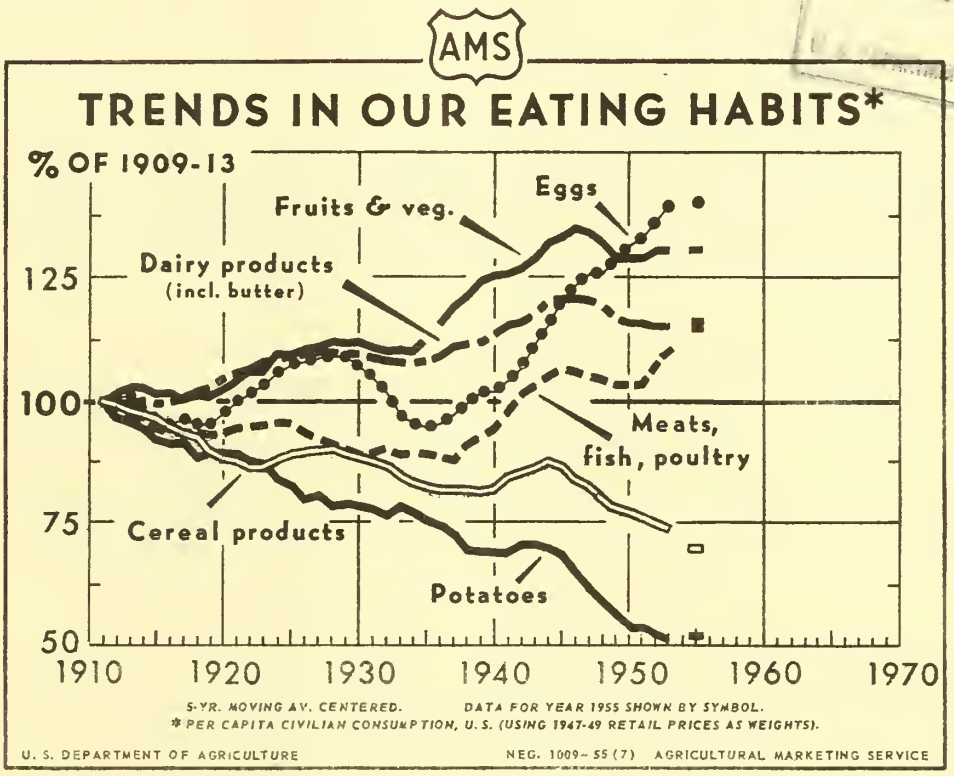
The NATIONAL FOOD SITUATION

FOR RELEASE
AUG. 2, A. M.
1955

In this issue:
Changing Food Patterns of the American People

LIBRARY
JAN 9 1956
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NFS- 73



This chart has been developed from the subindexes of the index of per capita food consumption. The index is constructed using 1947-49 average retail prices times changing quantities of all major foods. The average for 1909-13 for each subindex was set equal to 100 in order to show more clearly the changes in consumption rates over the past 45 years. However, these indexes measure only changes and provide no information about actual levels. Data for this chart and for other major food groups are given in table 5 of this report.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

Table 1.- Volume of farm marketings and home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1935-39 average, 1948-54, and preliminary estimates for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers, 1947-49=100)

Item	1935-39 average	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 preliminary	Estimate for 1955 2/	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1954
Marketings and home consumption of all farm commodities 3/	73	97	103	99	101	105	110	109	110	151	101
Food grains 4/	54	102	98	81	77	98	98	84	73	135	87
Vegetables 5/	84	103	98	99	100	96	98	98	100	119	102
Fruits and nuts 6/	90	100	97	97	106	101	99	101	105	117	104
Sugar crops	107	91	94	116	93	94	106	115	103	96	90
Total food crops 7/	73	102	98	91	92	96	98	92	88	121	96
Meat animals	72	96	99	100	104	108	111	112	119	165	106
Poultry and eggs	63	96	105	111	118	123	125	133	132	210	99
Dairy products	88	98	101	101	99	100	106	108	108	123	100
Total food livestock 8/	75	97	101	102	105	109	112	115	119	159	103
Food marketings and home consumption	74	98	100	99	102	105	108	109	111	150	102
Civilian per capita food consumption	91	99	99	100	99	101	102	102	103	113	101

1/ Index of volume of farm marketings and home consumption supersedes the series on volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption. 2/ Estimates for 1955 are based on calendar-year quantities estimated as of July 15. 3/ Food and nonfood items. 4/ Wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat. 5/ Truck crops for fresh use and processing, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, dry field peas, and mung beans. 6/ Except peanuts. 7/ In addition to the crops listed above, includes peanuts, peppermint, popcorn, spearmint, and vegetables grown under glass. 8/ Also includes honey, but excludes turkey hatching eggs.

Table 2.- Index of supply-utilization of agricultural food products, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, and 1947-55 1/

Year	Production	Imports	Stock change 2/	Total utilization	Domestic use: Food: Civilian	Domestic use: Food: Military 3/	Domestic use: Nonfood 4/	Domestic use: Total	Commercial exports and shipments to Territories 5/	Department of Agriculture export program: Stock change 6/	Department of Agriculture export program: Deliveries 7/	Department of Agriculture export program: Net purchases 8/
Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year												
1935-39	93.9	8.2	-2.1	100.0	67.8	---	30.1	97.9	2.1	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	91.7	6.0	2.3	100.0	64.4	2.3	27.4	94.1	3.3	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	100.3	6.8	-7.1	100.0	65.8	2.8	27.2	95.8	2.7	-.2	1.7	1.5
1949	94.9	6.8	-1.7	100.0	64.7	2.7	28.1	95.5	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	94.7	6.9	-1.6	100.0	65.5	1.4	28.6	95.5	3.2	-.1	1.4	1.3
1951	89.8	6.8	3.4	100.0	63.0	2.7	27.7	93.4	4.6	.3	1.7	2.0
1952	95.0	7.0	-2.0	100.0	65.9	2.0	26.6	94.5	5.2	-.1	.4	.3
1953	95.6	7.1	-2.7	100.0	67.2	1.9	26.0	95.1	4.4	9/	.5	.5
1954 10/	96.1	6.3	-2.4	100.0	68.1	1.6	25.2	94.9	4.7	9/	.4	.4
1955 10/	95.9	6.3	-2.2	100.0	67.5	1.6	25.3	94.4	4.9	9/	.7	.7
Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49												
1935-39	71.8	6.3	-1.6	76.5	51.8	---	23.1	74.9	1.6	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	93.8	6.1	2.4	102.3	65.8	2.4	28.1	96.3	3.4	.4	2.2	2.6
1948	97.9	6.6	-6.9	97.6	64.2	2.7	26.6	93.5	2.7	-.2	1.6	1.4
1949	95.1	6.8	-1.7	100.2	64.8	2.7	28.2	95.7	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	96.0	7.0	-1.6	101.4	66.4	1.4	29.0	96.8	3.2	-.1	1.5	1.4
1951	94.6	7.2	3.6	105.4	66.4	2.9	29.2	98.5	4.8	.3	1.8	2.1
1952	99.4	7.3	-2.1	104.6	68.9	2.1	27.8	98.8	5.5	-.1	.4	.3
1953	101.2	7.5	-2.9	105.8	71.0	2.0	27.5	100.5	4.7	9/	.6	.6
1954 10/	102.6	6.7	-2.6	106.7	72.6	1.7	26.8	101.1	5.1	9/	.5	.5
1955 10/	106.4	7.0	-2.5	110.9	74.8	1.8	28.1	104.7	5.4	9/	.8	.8

1/ Covers agricultural products normally used for food in the United States, including their nonfood use. Relationships were developed from quantitative data on supply and use of unprocessed and processed farm products multiplied by average prices in 1947-49. All values were adjusted to farm values. For methodology see Agriculture Handbook 62, "Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52," and an article in NFS-70, "Introduction of the Index of Supply-Utilization of all Agricultural Products." 2/ Includes farm and commercial stocks and holdings under price support programs. Minus sign means an addition to stocks, plus sign means a withdrawal from stocks. 3/ Includes civilian feeding in areas occupied by our Armed Forces. 4/ Includes seed, feed, industrial alcohol, alcoholic beverages, etc. 5/ Excludes deliveries by the Department of Agriculture. 6/ Stocks held for export. Here, minus sign means a withdrawal from stocks; plus sign means an addition. 7/ Shipments out of this country. 8/ Represents net quantities withdrawn from domestic commercial channels. 9/ Less than 0.05 percent. 10/ Preliminary.

THE NATIONAL FOOD SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, July 26, 1955

SUMMARY

Midyear prospects indicate that we will have record food supplies available for the rest of the year, if the weather continues favorable. A near-record harvest is in prospect and output of livestock products this year is expected to rise to another new high.

Large supplies of food and feed grains are being carried over into the new crop year. With a substantial increase in feed grain production this year, plentiful supplies of milk, eggs, and meats of all kinds will continue on into 1956.

Some of the significant changes in the food outlook for the second half of 1955 compared with the first six months are the larger supplies of pork and potatoes, seasonal increases in deciduous fruits, substantially larger crops of vegetables for fresh market this summer, and seasonal decreases in supplies of eggs and milk.

With this outlook for record food supplies, it is fortunate that the outlook for consumer incomes and demand is bright. The Department of Commerce income estimates are at new highs and record rates of employment and consumer income are likely to prevail in 1955.

Consumers' outlay for food is still rising. With record incomes, consumers are buying more of the higher cost items as well as more marketing services with their food.

During the late summer and fall very large supplies of food may lead to some decline in retail prices. Although consumer demand will be unusually strong, somewhat more than seasonal increases in supplies may bring prices down a little more than usual in the fall.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES

The level of retail food prices may decline slightly in the next few months. The principal factor will be seasonal increases in supplies of meats, fruits and vegetables. But the decline will also reflect the general abundance of food supplies available from record farm production for domestic use and for export.

Consumer demand for food will continue very strong. We are experiencing new high levels of economic activity. Employment at peak levels, rising wage rates, and a lengthening work week have all contributed to rapidly rising income payments. With purchasing power at record levels, consumer spending is at a record rate. Record consumer incomes,

Table 3.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1952-54, and preliminary estimates for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954 preliminary	Preliminary estimates for 1955	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Meats (carcass weight) - Total	125.3	146.5	144.3	153.7	153.3	160	128	109	104
Beef	54.8	64.7	61.5	76.7	79.2	79	144	122	100
Veal	8.1	9.6	7.1	9.5	9.9	10.0	123	104	101
Lamb and mutton	6.7	4.8	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.5	67	94	100
Pork (excluding lard)	55.7	67.4	71.6	62.9	59.7	66.5	119	99	111
Fish (edible weight) - Total	10.9	10.3	11.0	10.8	11.1	11.1	102	108	100
Fresh and frozen	5.3	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.1	2/	---	---	---
Canned 3/	4.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.4	2/	---	---	---
Cured	.8	.6	.6	.6	.6	2/	---	---	---
Poultry products									
Eggs (farm basis) - Number	296	380	405	404	415	410	139	108	99
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	13.2	18.5	23.1	22.6	23.8	23.4	177	126	98
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	2.1	3.2	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.3	205	134	88
Dairy products									
Total milk fat solids	31.2	29.2	27.3	26.7	27.1	27.4	88	94	101
Total nonfat milk solids	39.6	46.6	47.8	47.2	47.3	48.0	121	103	101
Cheese	5.5	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.9	144	114	104
Condensed and evaporated milk	16.5	19.8	17.4	17.2	16.8	16.8	102	85	100
Fluid milk and cream	330	359	352	349	349	353	107	98	101
Ice cream (product weight)	9.8	18.5	17.6	17.7	17.0	16.9	172	91	99
Fats and oils - Total, fat content 4/	44.8	41.8	43.6	43.6	45.1	45.4	101	109	101
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	16.8	10.5	8.6	8.5	9.0	9.3	55	89	103
Margarine (actual weight)	2.8	5.5	7.8	7.9	8.4	8.3	296	151	99
Lard	10.9	12.2	11.7	11.3	10.2	10.3	94	84	101
Shortening	11.6	9.5	10.0	10.1	11.6	11.6	100	122	100
Other edible fats and oils	6.4	7.2	8.6	8.9	9.3	9.3	145	129	100
Fruits									
Fresh (farm weight) - Total	137.1	130.4	111.1	107.8	102.3	102	74	78	100
Citrus	48.5	54.0	43.8	42.8	40.6	41	85	76	101
Apples (commercial)	30.2	25.2	21.1	20.2	19.3	20	66	79	104
Other (excluding melons)	58.4	51.2	46.2	44.8	42.4	41	70	80	97
Processed									
Canned fruit	14.8	18.1	20.6	20.6	19.2	19.6	132	108	102
Canned juices	3.8	15.9	13.5	13.7	13.4	13.1	345	82	98
Frozen (including juices)	.8	3.2	6.5	7.0	7.3	7.7	962	241	105
Dried	5.7	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2	74	100	102
Vegetables									
Fresh, total commercial (farm weight) 5/	140	151	145	146	146	144	103	95	99
Canned	29.6	38.5	40.9	41.8	40.9	38.2	129	99	93
Frozen	6/.4	2.9	5.1	5.4	5.9	5.9	1,475	203	100
Potatoes (farm weight)	128	112	99	103	105	104	81	93	99
Sweetpotatoes (farm weight)	21.3	12.3	7.0	8.1	7.0	8.0	38	65	114
Dry edible beans	8.7	6.6	8.0	7.7	8.3	8.1	93	123	98
Dry field peas	.6	.6	.5	.5	.5	.5	83	83	100
Sugar, refined	96.0	93.8	96.8	96.5	95.4	95.0	99	101	100
Grains									
Corn products:									
Cornmeal	22.8	13.4	12.3	12.0	12.0	12.0	53	90	100
Corn sirup	7.6	9.8	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.8	116	90	101
Cornstarch	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	138	100	106
Corn sugar	2.7	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	133	86	97
Breadfast cereals	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	94	100	100
Hominy	1.4	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	186	93	100
Oat food products	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	89	100	100
Barley food products 7/	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	93	81	100
Wheat:									
Flour 8/	157	135	130	126	124	121	77	90	98
Breakfast cereals	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	94	100	100
Rye flour	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	64	100	100
Rice, milled	5.7	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	91	108	98
Beverages									
Coffee 9/	13.9	18.0	16.5	16.7	14.7	15.4	111	86	105
Tea	.66	.57	.62	.66	.68	.68	103	119	100
Cocoa beans	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.0	93	100	98
Peanuts (shelled)	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.2	2/	---	---	---

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits, which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas, and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year, and rice, which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish, such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Computed from unrounded data. 5/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Barley used for food products in terms of malt equivalent. 8/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 9/ Green bean basis.

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

scheduled increases in business investment and prospects for continued high levels of production and construction activity suggest that economic activity and consumer incomes will rise further in coming months. A recent Commerce Department survey of more than 400 manufacturing industries indicates they will achieve new all-time sales and production records in 1955.

Retail prices of food in urban areas have averaged about 2 percent lower in the first half of 1955 than a year earlier. Larger supplies of pork and coffee brought down their prices and the lower support level for dairy products resulted in significant reductions in their prices from the first quarter of 1954 to January-March 1955, but many other items held steady or were slightly higher. Early this summer the BLS retail food price index was slightly below its June 1954 level.

COMMODITY REVIEWS

Meats

Somewhat more meat will be marketed during the coming late summer and fall months than in the same months of 1954. Most of the increase over 1954 rates of supply will continue to be in pork, as in recent months. As much beef will be on the market as last year's plentiful supplies. A larger proportion will be better grade beef because of the 13 percent increase in the number of cattle on feed on July 1.

Prices of Choice beef at retail have been slightly lower this summer than last. A slight seasonal increase is possible this fall, but it will be limited by the large supply of fed cattle for slaughter. Prices of pork have been considerably below last summer, with less reduction in prices of fresh cuts and more for cured products such as hams and bacon. Pork prices will decline seasonally in late summer and this fall. Biggest reductions will be in fresh pork. Prices will stay below last year.

Meat production will increase seasonally in the months ahead. It will be above last year but probably by a slightly lower percentage than in the first half. The gain will again be largely in pork. Marketings of hogs from 1955 spring pig crops will be underway in August and will be stepped up during the next few months. Hog slaughter during the last half of the year will probably average 10-12 percent greater than a year ago. Cattle and calf slaughter will continue large, probably at about the rate of a year earlier.

In the first half of 1955 commercial meat production was 6 to 7 percent greater than in the same months a year earlier. Pork production was up considerably because of a larger 1954 fall pig crop together with a larger number than usual of previous year's spring pigs slaughtered after January 1. The moderate gain in beef supplies came from greater cow and heifer slaughter. More grain-fed cattle were slaughtered than a year earlier.

Supplies of meat available per civilian consumer from current output this year may be augmented by a small net withdrawal from cold storage. Also military takings may be somewhat smaller. However, net exports, particularly of pork, are expected to increase enough to offset part of this gain. For 1955 as a whole consumption of all meat is currently forecast at approximately 160 pounds. This is 7 pounds more than last year and the highest on record except for 1908, when consumption reached 163 pounds per person. Pork consumption at 66½ pounds in 1955 would be almost 7 pounds above 1954, although one pound less than the average of the last 10 years. Beef consumption is expected to reach the 1954 record of 79 pounds. Consumption rates for the other meats will not change much from 1954 levels.

Fishery Products 1/

U. S. civilian per capita consumption of fishery products during the first half of 1955 was almost as large as that of a year earlier. Retail prices for fishery products, judging from wholesale price information, averaged somewhat lower than in the first half of last year.

Landings of edible fish and shellfish by commercial fishermen during January-June totaled a little smaller than a year earlier. The sharp decline in the commercial landings of tuna was in large part offset by increases for several other fish.

Commercial freezings of fishery products in the continental United States through June totaled almost 108 million pounds, 12 percent more than a year earlier. Freezings will continue to increase seasonally during the summer months, and for the year as a whole may total more than in 1954. Cold-storage holdings of frozen products on July 1 amounted to 122 million pounds, up 4 percent from those on the same date last year. Holdings of frozen fishery products will trend upward during the remainder of the year as supplies are built up for distribution during the winter of 1956.

Imports of important edible fishery products--excluding fresh and frozen tuna, which is to be canned--through the first half of this year probably were somewhat lower than a year earlier. During the first five months of 1955 receipts of major fresh and frozen fish from abroad were about 15 percent larger than in the same part of 1954. However, imports of canned sardines, salmon and tuna were sharply lower this year. The decline in imports of the major types of canned fish is in large part a consequence of the larger domestic packs in 1954 and the larger stocks carried over into 1955. Exports of important species of canned fish through April were much larger this year than last. Exports of canned Pacific sardines were five times the very low volume of a year earlier, and canned salmon exports were up more than a half.

Poultry and Eggs

Large supplies of chicken will be available for consumer purchase in the next few months. The number of broilers ready for market has been increasing steadily since March and the rates of chick placement in recent weeks indicate continued plentiful supplies. Late summer and fall is the season for relatively heavy sales of older chickens as farmers cull their laying flocks.

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of Interior.

Retail prices of chicken have declined since April and may go down some more in the near future. This would be the likely result of expected large supplies of broilers, some seasonal reduction this fall in demand for broilers, and increasing meat supplies.

Egg supplies are expected to decline more than seasonally this fall because of fewer replacement chickens being raised. Partly offsetting the reduction in chickens raised for replacement in egg-laying flocks are the prospective higher rate of lay per bird than last year, probably less culling of hens than a year earlier, and more shell eggs in cold storage.

The expected lower level of supplies this fall will probably lead to a rise in egg prices during that season. Last fall, heavy supplies resulted in relative stability in retail egg prices. So far in 1955, retail prices of eggs averaged lower than a year earlier, reflecting plentiful supplies of eggs, but late fall egg prices are likely to run higher than a year earlier.

Fewer of the smaller type of turkeys will be on the market in the fall and winter, according to hatching indications. Early fall marketings of heavy birds may be light compared with a year earlier, but November and December slaughter may run ahead. Even so, per capita consumption of turkey meat is expected to be below the 1954 record rate.

Dairy Products

Consumption of milk and most dairy products in past 6 months has continued to show significant increases over a year earlier. The most noticeable increase occured for butter but consumption of fluid milk has also risen. Increases for these items partly reflected increased disposition from Government stocks for school lunch, welfare and military uses, and the special programs to increase milk consumption among school children, military personnel and patients of veterans' hospitals. However, higher consumer incomes and the effort by industry to increase sales of dairy products have contributed to stronger consumer demand. Also, the population has increased further. Since April 1, retail prices of dairy products have been about the same as a year earlier.

With larger total domestic consumption of dairy products and production of milk about the same, quantities bought by CCC for price support in the first half of 1955 were noticeably smaller than a year earlier. Moreover, shipments to foreign recipients from CCC stocks have been stepped up since the Agricultural Act of 1954 authorized payment of processing, packaging and at least part of the freight on such shipments. Accordingly, stocks of dairy products owned by Commodity Credit Corporation have been substantially reduced.

Prices of feeds and some alternative livestock products have declined relative to milk in the past year. This may lead to a renewed interest in milking cows on the part of some farmers, which could result in an increase in milk output later this year or in 1956. On July 1, the percentage of milk cows actually milked was smaller than a year earlier, and sharply lower than on June 1. This probably indicates a continuation of the shift toward fall freshenings, and therefore suggests continued large milk output through rest of 1955.

Production of milk on farms, after running below a year earlier in the first 4 months of 1955, showed a slight increase in May and June. Total output in first half of 1955 was 65.5 billion pounds compared with 65.8 billion a year earlier. Production on farms for the year is expected to be around the 123.5 billion pounds produced in 1954.

Despite a seasonal decline in milk flow in prospect for coming months, some government purchases of surplus supplies probably will be made in most months. This indicates little change in average retail dairy prices from present levels.

With continued large consumer incomes, plentiful supplies available, and the continuation of programs to encourage consumption, total consumption of dairy products is likely to continue near present levels through the rest of 1955.

Fats and Oils

Supplies of all food fats have been plentiful and are likely to continue so through the rest of the year. Domestic consumption of butter is running a little higher than in 1954 and for the year may average nearly half a pound more per person. Lard supplies are so large that prices are down and use of lard in shortening is substantial. Civilian consumption of lard--as lard--is at about the same per capita rate as a year earlier. Less vegetable shortening is being consumed this year than last, but the decline is offset by increased use of shortening containing lard. Consumption rates for margarine and cooking and salad oils have been about the same as a year earlier.

This same general pattern of civilian consumption of these fats and oils is expected to continue in the second half of 1955.

Stocks of butter have declined about 20 percent since January 1 in contrast with the large increase that took place last year. Deliveries of butter to CCC in January-May 1955 totaled 219 million pounds, 152 million less than a year ago. Production in the first five months of 1955 was down 10 percent from a year ago while domestic use rose 8 percent and exports climbed from 17 million to 102 million pounds. Most of the rise in exports and a small part of the increase in domestic use was due to government donations. Production was lower, mainly because more milk was consumed as fluid milk, but probably will run near last year's level through the rest of the year. Currently, prices are about the same as last year and little change is expected through the rest of 1955.

Soybean crushings and hog slaughter will be higher in the next 6 months than in July-December 1954, and will more than offset reduced crushings of cottonseed. Stocks of soybeans on July 1 probably were at a peak for that date and the 1955 crop probably will set a new record. The 1955 spring pig crop, which will start to move to market in volume in August, was 9 percent greater than a year ago.

Exports of all food fats are continuing high. Compared with 1954, more lard and butter and about the same amount of vegetable oils are being shipped.

Fruit

Fruit consumption per capita during the first half of 1955 probably was close to that of the first half of 1954. More oranges from California and Texas offset the small decrease in Florida so consumption of fresh oranges was roughly the same. Similarly, consumption of fresh grapefruit was nearly maintained by increased supplies from Texas partially offsetting reduced supplies from the smaller Florida crop. Because stocks of apples on January 1, 1955 were about a fourth larger than on that date in 1954, consumption of fresh apples in recent months probably was considerably heavier than a year earlier. Just the opposite was the case for fresh pears.

The Florida winter crop of strawberries was considerably larger than the short 1954 crop. Supplies from the early spring States and some of the mid-spring States were cut considerably by severe freeze damage to blossoms and young fruit in late winter. But production in other States was up sharply, and the total commercial crop is expected to set a new record. In Pacific Coast States, which grow most of the strawberries that are frozen, production is up sharply this year. So we expect a larger frozen pack this year.

Imports of bananas during January-May 1955 were slightly smaller than in early 1954. Per capita consumption in 1954 was about 5 percent under 1953.

Except possibly for dried fruits, stocks of processed fruits on January 1, 1955 were larger than a year earlier. These stocks were augmented by unusually heavy packs of canned apples and applesauce during the winter months and by heavy packs of canned and frozen citrus sections and juice during the first half of 1955. In Florida, the 1954-55 pack of frozen orange concentrate was nearly the same as in 1953-54, but that of canned citrus juices was down 18 percent.

We may have somewhat larger supplies of fresh and processed fruits during the next 6 months than a year earlier. On June 1, 1955, packers' stocks of the major canned deciduous fruits were about 6 percent larger than on that date in 1954. Available data on wholesale distributors' stocks indicated little change from a year earlier. Cold storage stocks of frozen fruits (excluding juices) on July 1, 1955 were about 10 percent larger than a year earlier, and stocks of frozen orange juice, mostly concentrate, were about 4 percent larger.

Supplies of California Valencia oranges for this summer and early fall are much larger than a year ago because of the heavier crop. Retail prices probably will not average as high as last summer. Remaining supplies of lemons from the 1954-55 crop are somewhat lighter than a year ago. Stocks of frozen concentrate for lemonade were a little smaller in late-June than a year earlier.

Looking ahead a bit, prospects for the new orange and grapefruit crops as of July 1, 1955 were not quite as favorable as a year earlier, though nearly up to average. Prospects for lemons were more favorable than a year earlier.

Prospects on July 1 for the 1955 deciduous crops pointed to total production about 4 percent larger than in 1954. Much larger crops than in 1954 were indicated for apricots, sweet and sour cherries, grapes, and Pacific Northwest prunes. The plum crop is up moderately. The pear crop may run close to 1954 production. The commercial apple crop is indicated to be down a little, principally because of freeze damage in late March and early May. Although peach production has been cut about a fifth from 1954 by freeze damage to the early crops, production of California clingstones, used mostly for canning, is expected to be 7 percent larger than the tonnage utilized in 1954. Production of California dried prunes is expected to be about one-fifth smaller than in 1954.

Fresh market supplies of most deciduous fruits during late summer and early fall probably will be about as large as or larger than in this period of 1954. With large crops of most of the fruits of which a large percentage usually is canned, there probably will be another large pack of canned fruits. Although a much smaller tonnage of dried prunes is in prospect, there is likely to be a large increase in output of raisins from the much larger California grape crop.

Among tree nuts, prospects on July 1 were for larger production of walnuts, but smaller crops of almonds, filberts, and pecans.

Vegetables

Domestic supplies of fresh vegetables during the last half of 1955 are expected to be a little larger than a year earlier, and those of potatoes and sweetpotatoes much larger. Less of the canned and the frozen vegetables are likely to be available than in the second half of last year because of lower total carryover stocks and the prospect for smaller packs of some vegetables. Retail prices of fresh vegetables, potatoes and sweetpotatoes during the coming months of this year may average moderately lower than in the same part of 1954, but those of the processed vegetables probably will be at least the same.

More fresh vegetables will be marketed in July-December this year than last if growing conditions are favorable. Indications as of July 1 pointed to an 8 percent larger crop of vegetables this summer than last. Substantial increases in production are in prospect for the summer crops of cantaloups, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, green peas, spinach, tomatoes and watermelons. These plus smaller increases for several other fresh vegetables are expected to more than offset declines indicated for lima beans, carrots, honey dew melons, and lettuce.

During the first half of 1955 per capita supplies of fresh vegetables available to civilians were somewhat smaller than a year earlier, and retail prices averaged higher.

Prospective supplies of processed vegetables during the last half of 1955 will be smaller than a year earlier. Civilian consumption of these products may be at a lower per capita rate than in July-December 1954. Current stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables are somewhat smaller this year than last, and acreages for truck crops for commercial

processing indicate smaller packs of a number of vegetables than in 1954. According to July 1 indications, the acreages planted to processing vegetables this year were larger only for green peas, beets, tomatoes, and winter- and spring-season spinach.

Civilian consumption of canned vegetables in 1955 is not expected to equal the 1954 per capita rate. For frozen vegetables the consumption rate probably will be close to last year's record. Retail prices of the major processed vegetables through midyear averaged lower than a year earlier, but will tend to rise if the 1955 packs conform to current crop indications.

Per capita consumption of potatoes this year is expected to total 104 pounds, close to the 1954 rate. Through midyear consumption was a little smaller than a year earlier. July 1 growing conditions point to a 12 percent larger crop this summer and fall than last. Retail prices of potatoes during January-June averaged considerably higher than the relatively low level of a year earlier, but in the last half of 1955 are expected to average lower.

Marketings of sweetpotatoes this fall and early winter are expected to exceed moderately those of a year earlier if current crop prospects materialize. The 1955 sweetpotato crop, based on acreage and growing conditions as of midyear, is estimated at 34.3 million bushels, almost 15 percent more than the preceding crop but about 27 percent below the average for 1944-53. Retail prices of sweetpotatoes this fall and early winter may run lower than a year earlier.

During the first half of 1955 consumption of sweetpotatoes was smaller than a year earlier. Retail prices averaged about 10 percent higher than in the first half of 1954, but below the record level in 1952. Civilian consumption of sweetpotatoes in 1955 is expected to exceed last year's low rate of 7 pounds per person.

More dry edible beans but fewer field peas will be available for distribution in the 1955-56 marketing year than in the preceding period. The 1955 crop of dry beans has been forecast at 2 percent larger than a year earlier, the largest crop since 1949. The crop of field peas indicated as of July 1 is 27 percent less than last year's and the smallest since 1940. However, the supply of field peas for domestic use probably will not be smaller than in 1954-55 because of the expected sharp reduction in exports. Civilian consumption of both dry beans and peas during the last half of 1955 is expected to continue fairly close to that of a year earlier. Retail prices of dry beans and peas in the coming months of this year probably will average somewhat lower than last year.

Cereal Food Products

The outlook for supplies of these food commodities remains unchanged --abundant. Increases in retail prices of these products in the past years have been largely due to higher processing and handling costs. Developments in these costs will be the major factors in determining retail prices in the next few months.

The wheat crop is smaller this year because of the acreage reduction program. Because of the record carryover, we have about a two-year supply on hand.

Remaining stocks of rice from last year's record crop are very large and another good sized crop is forecast. Exports of rice have not been nearly as large as expected. Retail prices for rice are currently slightly lower than last year. Prices are likely to continue near the current level. Support prices are down from $4.92 to $4.66 per hundredweight of rough rice.

During the first half of 1955 the domestic sales of corn syrup were a little larger than a year earlier, sales of cornstarch for food were about the same, while sales of corn sugar were a little smaller. The consumption of corn for farm household use during 1954-55 was about 7 percent smaller than in 1953-54. While this continues the downward trend of past years, it may also be partly the result of the poor 1954 corn crop in the Southern States, where home consumption of corn is relatively high. Average retail prices of cornmeal, and rolled oats were slightly higher in June this year than last, reflecting increased costs of processing and handling.

Another record supply of feed grains in prospect will encourage continuation of the current high level of output of livestock products. Supplies of corn, oats, and barley, based on July indications, will be fully adequate to meet all domestic and export requirements in 1955-56 and leave large carryover stocks at the close of the season. The 1955 crops of corn, oats, and barley are estimated to be second largest on record and record carryover stocks are on hand from the 1954-55 marketing season.

Sugar

Movement of sugar into domestic consumption channels increased seasonally with the arrival of warm weather. Deliveries of sugar by primary distributors in the second quarter of 1955 exceeded those of the first by about 15 percent. Deliveries for the first half of 1955 are about the same as in 1954 and 1953. Domestic disappearance of sugar per capita in 1955 probably will be about the same as the 1954 rate.

The seasonal rise in demand for sugar has not resulted in an increase in the price paid for sugar by consumers because of plentiful supplies. Actually, retail prices for sugar averaged lower in the second quarter than in the first. No significant retail price changes are anticipated for the next several months.

Acreage allotments on both sugarcane and sugar beets will reduce domestic sugar production this year. Current indications point to a 1955 crop of sugar beets 15 percent below that of 1954. Sugarcane production may be down as much as 9 percent. As has been the case in recent years, foreign supplies of sugar in countries supplying the U. S. are very large.

CHANGING FOOD PATTERNS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE 1/

Changes in the food patterns of the American people are of major significance to us as individuals, as workers in fields related to food and nutrition, and as citizens. Changing food patterns offer great possibilities for improving our nutrition and our health. With increasing productivity and gradually rising real incomes we can afford to live better and to satisfy our food preferences more completely. Possible future changes in our food patterns offer one of the principal opportunities for solving our major farm problems. The great productive potential of our agricultural economy can be adjusted to producing the kinds of foods American consumers will be wanting and will be able to buy. Similarly, changing food patterns offer great opportunities for marketing agencies to supply marketing services which consumers increasingly need and want to buy with their food.

Major Historical Changes

The first step every economic researcher makes in tackling a particular subject is to look at major historical developments. We all have bits and pieces of knowledge of what has happened to food patterns of Americans in the past 100 years. I shall just remind you of some of the major changes.

Edgar W. Martin, a historian, has provided us with some fascinating details of consumption patterns 100 years ago in his book Standards of Living in 1860 2/. Based on his study of family budgets and other contemporary information, Martin concludes that about half of the ordinary city family's income was spent for food in the mid-nineteenth century and that, if farm produced food was counted in income, about half of farm income went for food also. Compare this with our current figure of one-fourth. Martin uses the data compiled by Richard O. Cummings 3/ which indicate that in the 1850's per capita consumption of meats was around 180 to 185 pounds, lard 13 pounds, butter 15, wheat flour 205, sugar 30 pounds. Pork consumption was particularly high as was that of fish. Let me interrupt here again to give you a basis for comparisons. Our 1954 consumption rates on about the same basis, as closely as I can judge, were for meats - 153 pounds, lard - 10, butter - 9, wheat flour - 124, sugar - 95. Martin reminds us that 100 years ago molasses, syrup and sorghum, and honey were much more common sweetenings than sugar. The consumption of fruits and vegetables was generally very low with the possible exception of potatoes and sweetpotatoes. Urban milk consumption was quite small. Farm people probably used a little more. Milk output was low and milk production and marketing arrangements were shocking accordong to our modern standards. Half of the milk supply of New York City in 1853 was reported to be swill milk.

1/ Paper by Marguerite C. Burk, at the 16th New York State Nutrition Institute, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, June 15, 1955.

2/ Published by The University of Chicago Press, 1942.

3/ The American and His Food, The University of Chicago Press. Rev. ed. 1941.

Literature of that era contains frequent references which show the very great differences between the diets of rich and poor families. To illustrate, most poor Southerners apparently lived on a diet of corn bread, bacon, coffee, and greens, whereas well-to-do Southern families had fish, flesh, and fowl in profusion as well as a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and imported delicacies. There may have been a little less variation in the Northeast between consumption patterns of different income levels. In frontier areas, the fare seems to have been quite meager and not very appetizing except near ports or railroads.

Moving forward now to the years just preceding World War I, let us review a few figures to set the stage for consideration of the major changes in food patterns over the last 50 years. Although available data on income and food expenditures for those years are not satisfactory, it is my guess that about a third of consumer income went for food. Some reasonable estimates of per capita consumption rates for all major foods for each year beginning with 1909 have been developed and published by the United States Department of Agriculture. 4/ Comparing the rates for individual foods (on a farm weight basis for fresh, processed weight for processed items), here are a few particularly interesting changes: Eggs - 289 per person in 1909, 415 in 1954; commercially grown fruit for fresh use - 136 pounds farm weight in 1909, 102 last year; commercially grown fresh vegetables (excluding potatoes) went up from about 100 to 146 pounds, but this did not quite offset the decline in home grown supplies. Meanwhile, consumption of canned fruit rose from 3 pounds per person to 19, of canned vegetables from 15 to 41 pounds. Also, we now consume large amounts of canned fruit prices and frozen foods, which are new products except for grape juice. Commercially produced potatoes fell from 184 pounds to 105 per person. Wheat flour dropped from 214 pounds to 124, corn flour and meal from 52 to 12 pounds. Beet and cane sugar purchases in all forms went up from 73 pounds to 95.

Another way to compare patterns of food consumption is to combine individual foods into the categories many home economists use. The averages for the following groups, including home-produced foods, were significantly higher in 1954 than in 1909--dairy products (excluding butter); eggs; meats, poultry, fish, (principally in poultry); citrus and tomatoes; leafy, green, and yellow vegetables; sugars and sirups; and coffee, tea, cocoa. But the 1954 rates for potatoes and sweetpotatoes and for the cereal group were about half their comparable rates in 1909. (See table 4.)

These data show what has happened to average consumption patterns. But what has happened to those sharp differences in food consumption of rich and poor families, North and South, urban and rural, and between winter and summer diets? Although we do not have satisfactory statistics on variations 50 years ago, we are sure that they were much more significant then than now. These points will be discussed further below.

4/ See U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52. Agriculture Handbook No. 62. Sept. 1953. Supplement for 1954 in process.

Table 4.- U. S. civilian per capita consumption of food, by major groups, averages for 1909-13, 1925-29, 1935-39, 1947-49, and 1954 1/

(Approximate retail weights)

Commodity	1909-13	1925-29	1935-39	1947-49	1954 preliminary
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Meat and game 2/	121	108	103	120	128
Fish 3/	11	12	11	10	11
Poultry 4/	17	16	16	22	29
Eggs	37	40	36	47	52
Dairy products: 5/					
Product weight, excluding butter	374	375	376	417	413
Milk fat solids, including butter	29	31	31	29	27
Nonfat solids, including butter	36	38	40	47	47
Fats and oils, including butter 6/	59	65	64	64	65
Butter	17	18	17	10	9
Other	42	47	47	54	56
Dry beans, peas, and nuts	16	16	18	17	17
Potatoes and sweetpotatoes	196	158	141	118	107
Tomatoes and citrus fruit 7/	60	71	96	116	108
Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables	62	97	106	109	102
Other vegetables and fruits	251	237	231	226	218
Sugar and sirups 8/	88	117	110	108	104
Flour and cereal products	287	234	201	169	156
Wheat flour	210	177	157	135	124
Cornmeal	49	29	23	13	12
Beverages 9/	10	13	16	19	16

1/ Retail weight represents weight of food as usually purchased in retail grocery stores. Ingredients of bakery products and other mixed food items are shown in their primary food groups. Some minor revisions for individual years prior to 1954 will appear in table 38 of the Supplement for 1954 to Consumption of Food in the United States, which will be published early this fall.

2/ Excludes fat cuts of pork; includes offals.

3/ Edible weight.

4/ Ready-to-cook basis.

5/ Data for dairy products computed on basis of their mineral and protein content are: 1909-13 188 quarts; 1925-29 198; 1935-39 209; 1947-49 244; 1954 250.

6/ Includes fat cuts of pork. Product weight except for oils used in salad dressing, mayonnaise, etc.

7/ Product weight except for concentrated citrus juices, which are on a single strength basis.

8/ To avoid duplication, excludes sugar used in production of canned and frozen fruit, canned fruit juices, canned vegetables, unskimmed, sweetened condensed milk, and frozen dairy products except ice cream.

9/ Includes coffee on roasted basis, chocolate liquor equivalent of cocoa and chocolate products, and tea.

Valuable data on such differences will come from the nationwide Survey of Household Food Consumption that has been made in April-June this year. This survey, covering a sample of 6,000 families, will give us information on regional differences in food consumption; urban, rural nonfarm and farm patterns; and household food use by income level. The data will be released in sets just about as fast as they come from machines, beginning next winter.

Meanwhile, we will be getting food expenditure data from the 1951 Survey of Consumer Expenditures made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to supply some of the information necessary for revision of the Consumer Price Index. The Ford Foundation has made a substantial grant to the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at The University of Pennsylvania for purchase of the data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics so we can expect to have these data in the next six months.

Major Types of Changes in American Food Patterns in Past 50 Years

In reviewing some of our statistics, we have mentioned the idea that there have been several kinds of changes in food patterns since 1900. Curiously enough, we have had relatively little change in total poundage of food consumed per person, calculated on an equivalent retail weight basis.

But we have had rather significant changes in quantity and quality of foods consumed 5/. Let me explain how we summarize such changes. We multiply the number of pounds of each food consumed in terms of retail weights in 1909 by its average retail price in 1947-49, obtaining a value or total retail cost for each item; then we total these values for 1909 and repeat the operation for 1954. Comparing the two totals, we find that the average overall rate of food consumption per capita in 1954 was 15 percent above the rate for 1909. Because we used the same prices for both years, the effect of price changes was eliminated. Accordingly, our index measures changes in the combination of quantity and quality of foods consumed. These changes include the shifts from lower priced to higher priced foods. These shifts are important to farmers, marketers, and consumers. On the one hand foods such as turkey cost more for farmers to produce than does wheat or corn. On the other hand, consumers are willing to pay more for a pound of turkey than for a pound of flour. Sometimes, but not always, the higher priced foods include more marketing services. (See cover chart and table 5.)

To some extent, the improved quality of our food supply is reflected in prices of foods. Also, remember the major improvements in quality of processed foods in the past 50 years, including sanitation, high pressure cookery, freezing, enrichment, pasteurization. On the other hand, many people may have some doubts about whether we have improved the quality of

5/ For additional development, see the article "Problems in the Analysis of Food Consumption," Agricultural Economic Research Jan. 1954.

some of our fruits and tomatoes--at least as we buy them shipped in most of the year. But that is just the point, they are shipped in and we do have them most of the year. We tend to forget the marked seasonality of supplies of many perishable foods in earlier years. They have had to become semi-durable goods to stand the treatment they are given in shipping and in storage.

Since this is a conference on nutrition, here is a brief summary of how these changes in our food patterns have affected our supplies of major nutrients, an important aspect of food quality. From 1909 to 1954, the food energy content of the per capita food supply declined 10 percent. The effect on protein supplies of the considerable decline in cereal food consumption was about half offset by increases in livestock products. We are getting larger proportion of our calories from fat, partly coming from higher consumption of salad and cooking oils and partly from so-called invisible fats in whole-milk dairy products and in the meat, poultry, fish group.

The halving of our consumption rates for potatoes and cereal products greatly reduced our daily supply of carbohydrates although we are getting more from sugars. In 1954 our estimated average supply of calcium was 20 percent higher than in 1909. The enrichment of white bread and flour and of some other cereal products has raised the average iron, thiamin, riboflavin, and niacin content of our diets, despite reduced consumption of cereal products. Finally, we have more Vitamin A and ascorbic acid because of the shift toward citrus; tomatoes; leafy, green, and yellow vegetables.

The decreasing variation in our food patterns deserves more attention than the brief mention above. It means that the average rates of consumption are representative of the food patterns of a larger part of our population and during more months of the year. Greater homogeneity of food patterns has resulted from changes in production patterns; from improved transportation, communication, and storage; because of much higher levels of income; and probably also, gradual assimilation of nationality groups and modern merchandising and sales promotion.

Along with these changes have come changes in the forms in which we get our foods. First, relatively few of us produce much of our own food any more. (Our new consumption survey will give us an up-to-date measure of how many do.) Not only do we buy more of our food, but we buy it in different forms. Right at this point, certain problems of definition should be noted. Is pasteurized and homogenized milk in paper cartons different in form from raw milk in glass bottles? I rather think so, just as I think that prepackaging provides a slightly different form. As yet, I have not been able to find out whether prepackaging really costs consumers more or not, because of offsetting reduction in handling costs.

We can probably all agree that shifts from fresh to canned, frozen, and premixed foods represent changes in purchased forms of foods. Our data on some of the newer prepared foods are quite inadequate, but here are a few figures to indicate trends. They show how much of our food preparation has moved from our homes to factories.

Commodity	Proportion of total per capita supply purchased in form of processed products	
	1909 period	1952-54
	Percent	Percent
Flour	20-25	65
Sugar	10-15	40
Fruits, excluding melons	10-15	50
Vegetables, excluding potatoes, dry beans and peas, melons	10	30

What these changes mean to American housewives is illustrated by a time and cost study of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics which has been widely quoted: 6/

	Cost	Time required
Home-prepared meals	$4.90	5.5 hours
Partially-prepared meals	5.80	3.1 hours
Ready-to-serve meals	6.70	1.6 hours

Not only has some of our meal preparation been taken over by factories, but some has been moved to the restaurant kitchen. It is my guess that perhaps 5 percent of our food supply was prepared in eating places for consumption away from home in the years before World War I. Now, with our school lunches, business and factory lunches, and eating out as a form of recreation, it probably runs 16 to 18 percent.

These changes add up to an important fact, namely, American consumers are buying additional marketing services with their food. I have mentioned processing, packaging, services of eating places, and increasing reliance on commercially produced and distributed foods. Just before World War I, 1 out of 3 people lived on farms; now about 1 in 7. Also, there has been a major change from local food production for local consumption to specialized production on a commercial basis for nationwide distribution. This has been necessitated by growing concentration of population and has been made possible by improved transportation and storage facilities. These are largely hidden but costly services which are nearly indispensable to the food patterns we have developed for our contemporary way of living.

6/ United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, "Time and Money Costs of Meals Using Home- and Prekitchen-Prepared Foods." Statement from a panel discussion at the 31st Annual Outlook Conference, Washington, D. C. October 29, 1953. Mimeo. 7 pp. FE 32.

But we should not overlook retailing services. We probably use much less retail food store credit, delivery, and clerk service than 25 or 30 years ago, although we do not know exactly how credit and delivery services now compare with 50 years ago. On the other hand, we do know that we buy many more retailing services in the forms of light, sanitation, variety, refrigeration, display, quality control, and maybe speed of handling than our grandparents did.

What Factors Have Brought About These Changes in Food Patterns?

Having reviewed the major changes in food patterns, we are now ready to consider briefly the factors bringing them about. Being an economist, I cannot resist grouping them under the headings--supply and demand. On the supply side, there have been (1) technological changes in agricultural production and marketing. These included improvements in strains and breeding, both improved and new forms of processing, and the improvements in transportation--refrigeration, trucks, terminals. (2) Development of commercial farming with increased specialization. (3) Decreased home production. (4) Merchandising and promotion by producers, processors, and distributors.

On the demand side, it is difficult to sort out the contributing factors because of their interplay. Accordingly, you may note some overlapping in the following: (1) Increased incomes have permitted American consumers to buy more and better foods and more services. (2) Population and occupational shifts have been tied in with increased incomes, but they also appear to be causal factors in their own rights. Here I am thinking of movement from farm to city living, the mobility back and forth across the country, and the reduction in heavy labor on farms and in mines and factories. This reduction is related to technological changes which deserve separate attention. (3) A variety of changes in technology have affected our manner of living. Consider our developing industrial economy and our urbanization. Sociologists point out that modern technology has resulted in smaller families and more working wives, fewer servants, and improved food handling facilities in our homes. 7/ (4) Nor should we overlook the development and dissemination of increased knowledge of nutrition, of health, of food content and substitutability.

But there are some factors which hold back changes in food patterns. Two of the strongest are habit and ignorance. Even with the high average level of postwar prosperity, insufficient purchasing power keeps some families from altering their food patterns as much as they would like. Finally, there are always some rigidities in our food production and marketing structures which temporarily obstruct shifts among foods.

7/ Ogburn, W.F. and Nimkoff, M.F. Technology and the Changing Family. Houghton Mifflin Company. 1955.

What Changes in Food Patterns Can We Expect in the Next 10-15 Years?

We have to begin with some assumptions or expectations about what will happen to our economy before we can consider possible changes in food consumption. To simplify, let us assume that our economy will continue to operate at a high level of production and consumption under peacetime conditions.

The easiest and safest forecast or projection is that past trends in food consumption will continue because underlying economic and social changes of the past several decades will probably go on for at least the next 10 to 15 years. In this category of continuing trends, I would put the downtrend in potatoes and cereal products and the uptrend in food processing and other marketing services.

Remembering that historical shifts in food consumption have been brought about by a complex interworking of factors, we have to consider the possibilities of slower or faster rates of change. Much depends upon how fast our scientists develop the knowledge of nutrition and how fast the consuming public acquires more understanding of the significance of nutrition and of food habits to their health. Being neither a nutritionist nor a home economist, I am not a specialist in this. But I can see no reason why we should not alter our food pattern rather sharply in the next decade or two if nutritionists and physiologists, for example, turn up sure proof of the serious effects of obesity on our health. This might necessitate some comparatively drastic changes in the demand for and the production of vegetable and animal fats and of carbohydrate.

It is quite possible that in the next decade we may witness a spurt of technological improvements in food production, in food marketing, and in our ways of living. Such rapid changes would undoubtedly affect the rates at which we consume some specific foods. Not being a scientist or a technologist, I hesitate to guess what foods will be affected most. Could it be changes in the marketing of milk or a new type of dehydration or some way to protect the quality of fibrous vegetables and fruits? What will automation do to our food needs, to food processing? What will radiation do to our food buying patterns?

Areas of Inadequate Knowledge of American Food Patterns

Having reviewed what we know or think we know about changes in American food patterns, I will conclude this paper by listing some of the major needs for information about those food patterns which are still to be filled.

Perhaps the most important is the need for measurement of food wastes, losses, and nutrient losses in marketing channels, in food preparation, and in actual consumption. Our present factors are based largely on scattered trade data and judgment of people in the food trades to allow for usual marketing losses from the farm gate to the checkout

counter of the retail store, for each year since 1909. Although many handling procedures for each commodity have probably changed several times during the past 50 years, we lack information for adjusting our factors. Knowledge of factors affecting nutrient losses in marketing is being accumulated, but slowly. Similarly, home economists have been trying to develop data on wastes and losses in food preparation in homes and institutions and on plate waste, but their data are still quite sketchy and certainly unrepresentative. Without these pieces of information we cannot work out estimates of the nutrient content of actual food consumption or intake to check against the National Research Council's recommended dietary allowances.

Related to this problem of matching actual consumption against requirements is another nearly "vacant lot" as far as our data go. We know very little about differences in consumption within families or within consumer units. True enough, most household food surveys have obtained data on household and family size and composition so that, where samples have been sufficient, a few conclusions about their effects on consumption rates could be drawn. Although most of us have ideas about how much teenage boys eat, for example, no one knows precisely.

Another area of little information is away-from-home eating. Aside from pilot-size surveys on a case study basis 8/, out knowledge of the patterns of institutional eating and of their effects on overall food consumption patterns is meager indeed. On this point, we can report that plans for a survey of in-plant feeding are now being developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

As we consider how our food patterns may change in the next decade or two, we realize how little we actually know about influencing food habits. This is the kind of information which people in nutrition education need every day.

Finally, we economists wish we had some directly usable data on consumers' reactions to price changes. How much will the consumption of a food change with a given change in its retail price? Historical statistics on consumption can be easily related to those on price, but a great variety of changing factors such as income, quality, supply, and food preferences prevent our drawing forthright conclusions. Let me illustrate my point. In the hearings on milk prices conducted in New York State last winter, a basic question arose as to how much consumers' purchases of fluid milk in New York City would be affected by a given change in retail prices.

8/ Sartorius, Lester A. and Burk, Marguerite C. Eating Places as Marketers of Food Products. Marketing Research Report No. 3. United States Department of Agriculture, Burea of Agricultural Economics and University of Minnesota, Division of Agricultural Economics. Washington, D. C. 1952. Hoofnagle, William S., Dwoskin, Philip B., and Bayton, James A. The Market for Food in Selected Public and Private Institutions. Marketing Research Report No. 84. United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. March 1955.

Although a number of people have studied this problem in the past, their findings are probably not satisfactory for answering this question now because market conditions have changed considerably. Consumers have the alternative choice of nonfat dry milk solids and the makeup of the population has changed. So most economists would hesitate to predict the change in fluid milk buying habits with a change in price.

Accumulation of knowledge in these areas is likely to come rather slowly because of the costs of obtaining the necessary data and the heavy demands such problems make on our analytical capacities and techniques.

But we are certain that the food patterns of the American people will continue to change, and probably will continue to improve according to nutritional standards. The exact directions and extent of change is the responsibility of nutritionists and educators to a considerable degree.

Table 5.- Indexes of per capita consumption of major food groups, 5-year moving averages (1909-13=100) 1/

Middle of 5-year period	Meat, fish, poultry	Dairy products (including butter)	Eggs	Fats and oils (excluding butter)	Fruits and vegetables	Potatoes and sweetpotatoes	Dry beans, peas and nuts	Flour and other cereal products	Sugar and sirups	Coffee, tea and cocoa
1911	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1912	98	100	100	105	101	97	98	99	101	99
1913	97	100	101	108	103	95	98	98	102	102
1914	96	100	99	110	102	94	96	97	101	107
1915	94	100	97	113	101	92	100	96	101	111
1916	94	100	96	119	101	91	100	95	101	115
1917	94	101	96	120	100	92	105	94	103	119
1918	94	101	95	118	101	88	105	92	106	121
1919	93	103	95	116	101	90	107	89	109	120
1920	94	104	97	118	102	90	103	88	116	118
1921	94	105	100	116	104	89	105	88	120	120
1922	95	106	101	115	105	87	104	87	125	122
1923	95	108	103	120	106	87	108	87	131	121
1924	96	109	105	127	109	84	110	88	138	123
1925	96	109	107	129	109	83	115	89	140	123
1926	94	110	108	132	110	80	117	89	146	121
1927	93	110	108	136	111	80	117	90	145	120
1928	92	110	109	139	112	78	117	90	147	122
1929	91	110	109	139	112	79	120	90	146	123
1930	90	110	107	139	112	79	117	89	144	123
1931	90	109	104	137	111	78	115	88	141	125
1932	91	108	101	136	110	76	115	86	141	125
1933	89	108	98	136	110	78	118	84	139	127
1934	90	108	95	140	110	77	119	83	141	129
1935	90	109	95	146	113	76	122	82	143	130
1936	89	110	96	151	115	75	127	81	144	133
1937	88	111	97	155	119	73	131	82	148	138
1938	91	112	100	156	122	70	133	82	149	142
1939	93	113	101	159	124	69	134	82	153	146
1940	95	115	102	159	126	69	137	82	153	146
1941	98	116	104	159	126	69	136	84	152	142
1942	101	117	106	158	127	70	135	85	152	141
1943	103	118	111	156	129	71	135	86	146	141
1944	105	121	116	154	132	70	134	87	139	146
1945	107	121	120	155	134	69	130	86	144	153
1946	106	121	123	157	136	66	130	84	149	162
1947	105	121	126	161	135	62	128	82	152	168
1948	104	120	126	169	132	59	128	80	161	169
1949	103	118	129	172	129	57	127	77	167	163
1950	103	116	131	178	129	53	127	77	166	162
1951	105	116	133	182	129	53	126	76	167	160
1952 2/	107	115	136	188	130	52	125	75	167	155
1953 2/	110	115	139	190	130	51	122	74	166	154
Calendar:										
1955 2/	115	116	140	200	130	52	119	70	165	151

1/ Derived from data on per capita consumption of individual foods, using estimates of retail weights multiplied by average retail prices in 1947-49. Civilian consumption only beginning 1941. Each figure is a 5-year average covering the period two years before and after the year shown, except for 1955 data.

2/ Preliminary.

Table 6.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1952-54, and preliminary estimates for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954 prelimi-nary	Preliminary estimates for 1955 2/	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
Meats (carcase weight)										
Beef	Mil. lb.	6,937	9,649	9,667	12,433	12,991	13,250	191	137	102
Veal	Mil. lb.	1,038	1,454	1,173	1,556	1,656	1,700	164	117	103
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	870	716	648	728	734	750	86	105	102
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil. lb.	7,337	10,281	11,547	10,063	9,952	11,000	150	107	111
Total meats	Mil. lb.	16,182	22,100	23,035	24,780	25,333	26,700	165	121	105
Fish (edible weight)										
Fresh and frozen	Mil. lb.	615	706	730	660	685	3/	---	---	---
Canned 4/	Mil. lb.	337	484	422	412	460	3/	---	---	---
Cured	Mil. lb.	74	70	68	62	62	3/	---	---	---
Total fish	Mil. lb.	1,026	1,260	1,220	1,134	1,207	3/	---	---	---
Poultry and eggs										
Eggs	Mil.doz.	3,335	5,086	5,590	5,713	5,993	5,990	180	118	100
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	1,730	2,753	3,648	3,715	3,956	3,990	231	145	101
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	288	492	773	725	816	740	257	150	91
Dairy products										
Total milk 5/	Bil. lb.	105.9	116.3	115.6	121.4	123.7	123.7	117	106	100
Cheese 6/	Mil. lb.	673	1,160	1,170	1,345	1,354	1,330	198	115	98
Condensed and evaporated milk	Mil. lb.	2,225	3,497	3,165	2,878	2,875	2,990	134	86	104
Ice cream (product weight)	Mil. lb.	1,279	2,758	2,845	2,893	2,841	2,885	226	105	102
Fats and oils										
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	2,195	1,611	1,417	1,629	1,661	1,600	73	99	96
Lard 7/	Mil. lb.	1,630	2,419	2,886	2,368	2,348	2,700	166	112	115
Margarine (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	372	839	1,286	1,292	1,364	1,380	371	164	101
Shortening	Mil. lb.	1,529	1,434	1,611	1,675	1,961	1,980	129	138	101
Other edible fats and oils 8/	Mil. lb.	2,157	3,912	4,958	5,389	5,472	5,400	250	138	99
Total fats and oils (fat content) 9/	Mil. lb.	5,554	7,627	8,985	9,068	9,157	9,388	169	123	103
Fruits										
Fresh										
Citrus	Mil. lb.	6,875	8,782	7,729	7,838	7,576	7,850	114	89	104
Apples (commercial)	Mil. lb.	4,385	3,791	3,290	3,208	3,407	3,400	78	90	100
Other (excluding melons)	Mil. lb.	4,648	4,508	4,344	4,142	3,942	3,850	83	85	98
Processed										
Canned fruit	Mil. lb.	1,705	2,584	2,776	2,876	2,949	2,950	173	114	100
Canned fruit juices	Mil. lb.	333	2,230	1,866	1,924	2,050	1,900	571	85	93
Frozen (including juice)	Mil. lb.	106	416	1,008	1,254	1,280	1,330	1,255	320	104
Dried	Mil. lb.	1,118	1,008	918	863	805	900	80	89	112
Vegetables										
Fresh, total commercial 10/	Mil. lb.	18,565	23,041	23,649	25,066	24,902	24,540	132	106	99
Canned	Mil. lb.	4,030	6,064	7,318	7,184	6,660	6,260	155	103	94
Frozen	Mil. lb.	11/78	452	896	1,103	975	1,030	1,321	228	106
Potatoes	Mil. bu.	335	414	349	380	356	400	119	97	112
Sweetpotatoes	Mil. bu.	68	46	29	34	30	34	50	74	113
Dry edible beans 12/	Mil. lb.	1,360	1,854	1,501	1,682	1,700	1,730	127	93	102
Dry field peas 12/	Mil. lb.	229	401	238	297	308	224	98	56	73
Canned baby foods	Mil. lb.	37	469	562	666	683	700	1,892	149	102
Sugar, raw basis	1,000 short tons	1,948	2,065	2,102	2,375	2,610	2,400	123	116	92
Grains										
Wheat	Mil. bu.	759	1,251	1,299	1,169	970	860	113	69	89
Rye	Mil. bu.	44.9	23.1	16.0	18.2	23.7	27.2	61	118	115
Rice, milled	Mil. lb.	1,340	2,333	3,097	3,112	3,372	3,852	287	165	114
Corn, grain only	Mil. bu.	2,050	2,788	2,977	2,876	2,652	3,100	151	111	117
Oats	Mil. bu.	1,045	1,294	1,260	1,209	1,500	1,513	145	117	101
Barley	Mil. bu.	239	279	226	243	370	384	161	138	104
Peanuts, farmers' stock basis	Mil. lb.	1,230	2,128	1,366	1,588	1,044	3/	---	---	---

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits on a pack-year beginning year indicated; rice on a marketing year ending year indicated. 2/ Preliminary estimates based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreages and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These estimates are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1955, but they are based on such official estimates of production as are available at this time. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Board of the Department. 3/ Not available. 4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 5/ Includes farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board and an allowance for nonfarm production ranging from 2.3 billion pounds in 1935-39 down to 0.2 billion in 1955. 6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese. 7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products. 8/ Includes cottonseed, peanut, soybean, corn, edible olive, and oleo oils, oleo stock, oleostearine, and edible tallow later processed into margarine, shortening, cooking and salad oils, etc., and nonfood items. 9/ Includes butter, lard, and "other fats and oils." 10/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets; includes quantities not harvested and use of a few minor vegetables for processing. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 11/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 12/ Cleaned basis.

Table 7.- Retail food prices and total consumer price index, United States, 1945-53 and 1954-55 by months

(Index numbers, 1947-49=100)

Year and month	Meats 1/	Eggs	Dairy products 2/	Fats and oils 3/	Cereals and bakery products	Fruits and vegetables	Sugar and sweets	Beverages	All foods 4/	Consumer price index
1945	56	81	70	69	66	87	72	61	69	77
1946	69	83	86	84	76	89	81	68	79	83
1947	94	99	97	110	94	98	102	92	96	96
1948	106	102	106	108	103	100	98	100	104	103
1949	100	99	97	82	103	102	100	108	100	102
1950	105	85	96	80	104	98	102	153	101	103
1951	117	104	107	94	114	107	106	169	113	111
1952	116	95	112	79	117	117	106	170	115	114
1953	110	5/	110	5/	119	114	5/	5/	112	114
1954	108	5/	106	5/	122	112	5/	5/	112	115
Jan.	110	5/	110	5/	121	111	5/	5/	113	115
Feb.	110	5/	109	5/	121	108	5/	5/	112	115
Mar.	110	5/	108	5/	121	108	5/	5/	111	115
Apr.	110	5/	105	5/	121	110	5/	5/	112	115
May	111	5/	104	5/	121	115	5/	5/	113	115
June	111	5/	103	5/	121	117	5/	5/	113	115
July	110	5/	104	5/	122	120	5/	5/	114	115
Aug.	108	5/	105	5/	122	115	5/	5/	113	115
Sept.	107	5/	106	5/	123	110	5/	5/	112	115
Oct.	104	5/	107	5/	123	111	5/	5/	111	114
Nov.	104	5/	107	5/	123	110	5/	5/	110	115
Dec.	102	5/	107	5/	123	108	5/	5/	109	114
1955										
Jan.	102	5/	106	5/	123	111	5/	5/	109	114
Feb.	102	5/	106	5/	124	111	5/	5/	110	114
Mar.	102	5/	105	5/	124	112	5/	5/	110	114
Apr.	103	5/	105	5/	124	118	5/	5/	110	114
May	102	5/	104	5/	124	120	5/	5/	110	114
June	104	5/	104	5/	124	120	5/	5/	110	114

1/ Includes chicken and fish.
2/ Includes butter.
3/ Excludes butter.
4/ Includes only foods consumed at home.
5/ Not reported separately.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indexes for commodity groups prior to 1953 adjusted to 1947-49 base from the published series on 1935-39 base. The Consumer Price Index revision, beginning 1953, has been described in the Monthly Labor Review.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS-NFS-73-7-55

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:
Agricultural Marketing Service,
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

941
2F73
p.2

1956 OUTLOOK ISSUE
FOR RELEASE NOV. 7, 1955, A. M.

The NATIONAL FOOD SITUATION

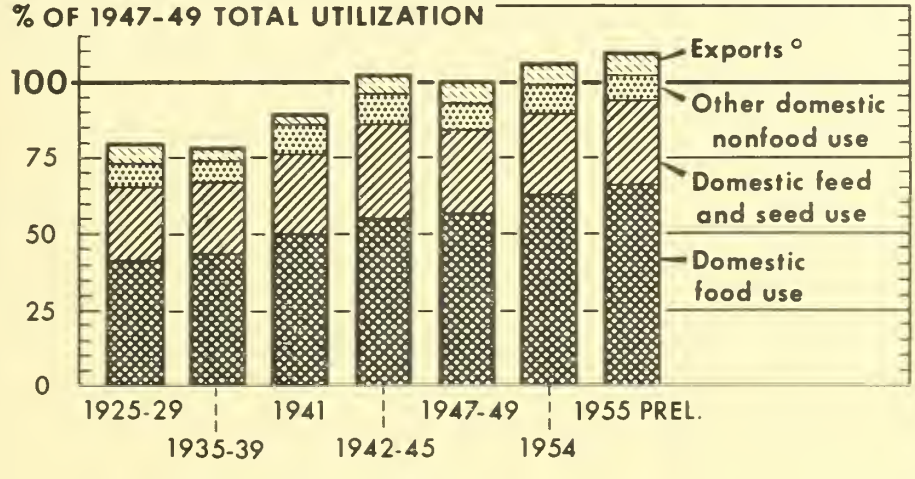
NFS-74

In this issue:
World Food Situation (p. 19)
Food Distribution Programs of the Department: Part II. Direct Distribution (p. 21)
Nutrients Contributed by Major Food Groups (p. 25)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
APR 5 1955
LIBRARY

AMS

FLOW OF ALL FARM COMMODITIES INTO USE*



*BASED ON FARM VALUE EQUIVALENTS IN 1947-49 DOLLARS
°INCLUDES TRADE WITH U. S. TERRITORIES AND WITHDRAWALS FOR EXPORT BY U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 1895-55 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Since the late 1920's total utilization of United States farm commodities has increased a third. Domestic food use expanded almost 60 percent by 1955. Since this rise exceeds the increase in population civilian per capita use of food has trended upward. Feed and seed use has risen slowly. This, coupled with better quality feed and seed and improved farming practices, has resulted in sharply expanded agricultural output during the past three decades. Other domestic nonfood uses of farm commodities are smaller now than in the late 1920's partly because of increased competition from synthetic fibers and detergents. Exports in 1955 were somewhat above the late 1920's. Since early 1940 Government programs have been important factors influencing exports.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Table 1.- Volume of farm marketings and home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1935-39 average, 1948-54, and preliminary estimates for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers, 1947-49=100)

Item	1935-39 average	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 preliminary 2/	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1954
Marketings and home consumption of all farm commodities 3/	73	97	103	99	101	105	109	110	112	153	102
Food grains 4/	54	102	98	81	77	98	96	88	75	139	85
Vegetables 5/	84	103	98	99	100	96	98	97	99	118	102
Fruits and nuts 6/	90	100	97	97	106	101	102	102	109	121	107
Sugar crops	107	91	94	116	93	94	105	118	105	98	89
Total food crops 7/	73	102	98	91	91	96	98	93	90	123	97
Meat animals	72	96	99	100	104	108	110	114	118	164	104
Poultry and eggs	63	96	105	111	118	123	125	133	134	213	101
Dairy products	88	98	101	101	99	100	105	108	108	123	100
Total food livestock 8/	75	97	101	102	105	109	112	116	118	157	102
Food marketings and home consumption	74	98	100	99	102	105	108	110	111	150	101
Civilian per capita food consumption	91	99	99	100	99	101	102	102	103	113	101

1/ Index of volume of farm marketings and home consumption supersedes the series on volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption. 2/ Estimates for 1955 are based on calendar-year quantities estimated as of October 1. 3/ Food and nonfood items. 4/ Wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat. 5/ Truck crops for fresh use and processing, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, dry field peas, and mung beans. 6/ Except peanuts. 7/ In addition to the crops listed above, includes peanuts, peppermint, popcorn, spearmint, and vegetables grown under glass. 8/ Also includes honey, but excludes turkey hatching eggs.

Table 2.- Index of supply-utilization of farm food commodities, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, and 1947-55 1/

Year	Production	Imports	Stock change 2/	Total utilization	Domestic use: Food: Civilian	Domestic use: Food: Military 3/	Domestic use: Nonfood 4/	Domestic use: Total	Commercial exports and shipments to Territories 5/	Department of Agriculture export program: Stock change 6/	Department of Agriculture export program: Deliveries 7/	Department of Agriculture export program: Net purchases 8/
				Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year								
1935-39	93.9	8.2	-2.1	100.0	67.8	---	30.1	97.9	2.1	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	91.7	6.0	2.3	100.0	64.4	2.3	27.4	94.1	3.3	0.4	2.2	2.6
1948	100.3	6.8	-7.1	100.0	65.8	2.8	27.2	95.8	2.7	-.2	1.7	1.5
1949	94.9	6.8	-1.7	100.0	64.7	2.7	28.1	95.5	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	94.7	6.9	-1.6	100.0	65.5	1.4	28.6	95.5	3.2	-.1	1.4	1.3
1951	89.8	6.8	3.4	100.0	63.0	2.7	27.7	93.4	4.6	.3	1.7	2.0
1952	95.0	7.0	-2.0	100.0	65.9	2.0	26.6	94.5	5.2	-.1	.4	.3
1953	95.6	7.1	-2.7	100.0	67.2	1.9	26.0	95.1	4.4	9/	.5	.5
1954 10/	96.1	6.3	-2.4	100.0	68.1	1.6	25.2	94.9	4.7	9/	.4	.4
1955 10/	94.9	5.7	-.6	100.0	67.9	1.4	24.2	93.5	5.5	9/	1.0	1.0
				Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49								
1935-39	71.8	6.3	-1.6	76.5	51.8	---	23.1	74.9	1.6	---	---	---
1947-49	95.6	6.5	-2.1	100.0	65.0	2.6	27.6	95.2	2.9	---	1.9	1.9
1947	93.8	6.1	2.4	102.3	65.8	2.4	28.1	96.3	3.4	0.4	2.2	2.6
1948	97.9	6.6	-6.9	97.6	64.2	2.7	26.6	93.5	2.7	-.2	1.6	1.4
1949	95.1	6.8	-1.7	100.2	64.8	2.7	28.2	95.7	2.9	-.2	1.8	1.6
1950	96.0	7.0	-1.6	101.4	66.4	1.4	29.0	96.8	3.2	-.1	1.5	1.4
1951	94.6	7.2	3.6	105.4	66.4	2.9	29.2	98.5	4.8	.3	1.8	2.1
1952	99.4	7.3	-2.1	104.6	68.9	2.1	27.8	98.8	5.5	-.1	.4	.3
1953	101.2	7.5	-2.9	105.8	71.0	2.0	27.5	100.5	4.7	9/	.6	.6
1954 10/	102.6	6.7	-2.6	106.7	72.6	1.7	26.8	101.1	5.1	9/	.5	.5
1955 10/	105.6	6.3	-.6	111.3	75.6	1.6	26.9	104.1	6.1	9/	1.1	1.1

1/ Covers farm commodities normally used for food in the United States, including their nonfood use. Relationships were developed from quantitative data on supply and use of unprocessed and processed farm products multiplied by average prices in 1947-49. All values were adjusted to farm values. For methodology see Agriculture Handbook 62, "Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52," and an article in NFS-70, "Introduction of the Index of Supply-Utilization of all Agricultural Products." 2/ Includes farm and commercial stocks and holdings under price support programs. Minus sign means an addition to stocks; plus sign means a withdrawal from stocks. 3/ Includes civilian feeding in areas occupied by our Armed Forces. 4/ Includes seed, feed, industrial alcohol, alcoholic beverages, etc. 5/ Excludes deliveries by the Department of Agriculture. 6/ Stocks held for export. Here, minus sign means a withdrawal from stocks; plus sign means an addition. 7/ Shipments out of this country. 8/ Represents net quantities withdrawn from domestic commercial channels. 9/ Less than 0.05 percent. 10/ Preliminary.

THE NATIONAL FOOD SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, October 31, 1955

SUMMARY

Retail prices thus far in 1955 have remained relatively steady, averaging a little lower than a year earlier. Prices to farmers during this year declined. Marketing charges continued to rise during 1955, due to increased costs. Except for seasonal variations, retail food prices over the next year are not expected to change significantly from current levels.

With consumer incomes likely to average record high in 1956, the demand for food is expected to remain strong. Plentiful food supplies are in prospect, and consumption of food per person probably will not differ much from the 1955 rate.

Indications for the late fall and winter point to continued much larger supplies of pork, potatoes and lard than in the same months of 1954-55. Somewhat more chicken, deciduous fresh fruits, important canned and frozen fruits, sweetpotatoes, dry beans, and rice will also be available. For most of these commodities, lower prices will tend to encourage some increase in consumption over year-ago rates. On the other hand, smaller supplies and higher prices are expected for lamb and mutton, canned fish, fresh oranges, onions, and cabbage. Total supplies of dairy products are smaller this fall than last because of sharply reduced Government stocks, but commercial holdings are up substantially. Farm production of milk is expected to continue a little above a year earlier.

If weather is at least average, farmers will again grow large food crops in 1956. Large stocks of food and feed from this year's output will be carried over into the new year. Production of livestock products will be maintained at a high rate by plentiful feed supplies and the large number of livestock on farms.

Although civilian consumption of food per person next year is expected to be about the same as in 1955, small shifts within broad food groups such as meats, dairy products, and fats and oils are expected. Among individual commodities, increases in the consumption rate are likely for pork, lard and potatoes. Some declines are probable for beef, veal, eggs, canned fish, vegetable shortening, and fresh oranges.

Table 3.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1952-54, and estimates for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954	1955 preliminary	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Meats (carcass weight) - Total	125.3	146.5	144.3	153.7	153.3	161	128	110	105
Beef	54.8	64.7	61.5	76.7	79.2	81	148	125	102
Veal	8.1	9.6	7.1	9.5	9.9	9.6	119	100	97
Lamb and mutton	6.7	4.8	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.5	67	94	100
Pork (excluding lard)	55.7	67.4	71.6	62.9	59.7	66	118	98	111
Fish (edible weight) - Total	10.9	10.3	11.0	10.8	11.1	11.0	101	107	100
Fresh and frozen	5.3	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.1	2/	---	---	---
Canned 3/	4.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.4	2/	---	---	---
Cured	.8	.6	.6	.6	.6	2/	---	---	---
Poultry products									
Eggs (farm basis) - Number	296	380	405	404	415	417	141	110	100
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	13.2	18.5	23.1	22.6	23.8	22.7	172	123	95
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	2.1	3.2	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.5	214	141	92
Dairy products									
Total milk fat solids	31.2	29.2	27.3	26.7	27.1	27.5	88	94	101
Total nonfat milk solids	39.6	46.6	47.8	47.2	48.3	49.0	124	105	101
Cheese	5.5	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.7	140	112	99
Condensed and evaporated milk	16.5	19.8	17.4	17.2	16.5	16.5	100	83	100
Fluid milk and cream	330	359	352	349	349	353	107	98	101
Ice cream (product weight)	9.8	18.5	17.6	17.7	17.2	18.0	184	97	105
Fats and oils - Total, fat content 4/	44.8	41.8	43.6	43.6	45.1	45.4	101	109	101
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	16.8	10.5	8.6	8.5	9.0	9.2	55	88	102
Margarine (actual weight)	2.8	5.5	7.8	7.9	8.4	8.3	296	151	99
Lard	10.9	12.2	11.7	11.3	10.2	10.3	94	84	101
Shortening	11.6	9.5	10.0	10.1	11.6	11.6	100	122	100
Other edible fats and oils	6.4	7.2	8.6	8.9	9.3	9.3	145	129	100
Fruits									
Fresh (farm weight) - Total	137.1	130.4	111.1	107.8	102.3	101.3	74	78	99
Citrus	48.5	54.0	43.8	42.8	40.6	40.7	84	75	100
Apples (commercial)	30.2	25.2	21.1	20.2	19.3	19.7	65	78	102
Other (excluding melons)	58.4	51.2	46.2	44.8	42.4	40.9	70	80	96
Processed									
Canned fruit	14.8	18.1	20.6	20.6	19.2	20.2	136	112	105
Canned juices	3.8	15.9	13.5	13.7	13.4	13.2	347	83	99
Frozen (including juices)	.8	3.2	6.5	7.0	7.3	7.8	975	244	107
Dried	5.7	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2	74	100	100
Vegetables									
Fresh, total commercial (farm weight) 5/	140	151	145	146	146	141	101	93	97
Canned	29.6	38.5	40.9	41.8	40.9	40.9	138	106	100
Frozen	6/.4	2.8	5.2	5.4	5.9	5.8	1,450	207	98
Potatoes (farm weight)	128	112	98	102	104	100	78	89	96
Sweetpotatoes (farm weight)	21.3	12.3	7.0	8.1	7.0	8.1	38	66	116
Dry edible beans	8.7	6.6	8.0	7.7	8.3	8.0	92	121	96
Dry field peas	.6	.6	.5	.5	.5	.5	83	83	100
Sugar, refined	96.0	93.8	96.8	96.5	95.4	94.9	99	101	99
Grains									
Corn products:									
Cornmeal	22.8	13.4	12.3	12.0	12.0	12.0	53	90	100
Corn sirup	7.6	9.8	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.9	117	91	102
Cornstarch	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	138	100	106
Corn sugar	2.7	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	133	86	97
Breakfast cereals	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	94	100	100
Hominy	1.4	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	186	93	100
Oat food products	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	89	100	100
Barley food products 7/	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	93	81	100
Wheat:									
Flour 8/	157	135	130	126	124	121	77	90	98
Breakfast cereals	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	94	100	100
Rye flour	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	64	100	100
Rice, milled	5.7	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	93	110	100
Beverages									
Coffee 9/	13.9	18.0	16.5	16.7	14.7	14.6	105	81	99
Tea	.66	.57	.62	.66	.68	.68	103	119	100
Cocoa beans	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.0	93	100	98
Peanuts (shelled)	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.5	105	102	110

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits, which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas, and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year, and rice, which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish, such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Computed from unrounded data. 5/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Barley used for food products in terms of malt equivalent. 8/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 9/ Green bean basis.

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES

Prospects for the remainder of 1955 and for 1956 point to a continuation of the present strong domestic demand for food. General economic activity and employment are both likely to be high and consumer incomes are expected to increase further. Next year some expansion over 1955 in consumer expenditures for food is probable, but the increase will reflect mainly heavier purchases of the more expensive highly processed commodities. Supplies of food in 1956 are expected to be about as large as this year's record total. Retail food prices, however, probably will not average much different in 1956 than this year because marketing charges will be maintained at a high level. In the past year food prices in general have remained relatively stable although prices to farmers have declined substantially. Food marketing charges continued to rise in 1955, reaching a peak during the third quarter. This gain reflected higher wage rates and some other increased costs. No decline in marketing charges are in prospect for 1956.

Military purchases of food in 1956 are expected to be about as large as this year, but some decline in exports is likely. As in recent years, food exports will be comprised mainly of commodities such as wheat which are in surplus supply.

NUTRITIONAL REVIEW 1/

Changes in the nutritive value of the per capita food supply from 1954 to 1955 are exceedingly small. In fact, the nutritive value of the average U. S. civilian diet has remained rather steady over the past 3 or 4 years. The only noticeable change in recent years is a slight upward trend in fat, partly compensated in calories by a decline in carbohydrate. This is a result of a continuation of the long-time trend in the decline in the per capita consumption of cereals and potatoes, with some increase in meat and the dairy products excluding butter. The 2 percent gain in thiamine in 1955 is related to the increase in per capita consumption of pork. Prospects for 1956 indicate little change from this year in the nutritive value of the per capita food supply.

A special article on changes in sources of nutrients since 1935-39 is presented in this issue of The National Food Situation.

1/ Prepared by Household Economics Research Branch, ARS.

Table 4.- Nutrients available from civilian consumption per capita per day, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1953, 1954, and preliminary estimates for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Nutrient	Unit	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1953	1954	1955 preliminary	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
Food energy	Cal.	3,270	3,230	3,210	3,200	3,220	98	100	101
Protein	Gm.	90	94	96	97	97	108	103	100
Fat	Gm.	132	140	141	144	148	112	106	103
Carbohydrate	Gm.	440	406	392	388	384	87	95	99
Calcium	Gm.	.93	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.04	112	101	101
Iron	Mg.	14.4	17.0	17.0	17.1	17.0	118	100	99
Vitamin A value	I.U.	8,200	8,300	7,900	7,800	7,800	95	94	100
Thiamine	Mg.	1.45	1.90	1.86	1.86	1.89	130	99	102
Riboflavin	Mg.	1.88	2.33	2.33	2.34	2.36	126	101	101
Niacin	Mg.	15.8	19.5	19.9	19.9	19.9	126	102	100
Folic acid	Mg.	.132	.133	.134	.134	.134	102	101	100
Ascorbic acid	Mg.	118	121	116	115	115	97	95	100

1/ Data computed by Household Economics Research Branch, ARS, on the basis of estimates of apparent per capita consumption (retail basis), including estimates of produce of rural and urban home gardens, supplied by the Division of Agricultural Economics, AMS. No deduction has been made in nutrient estimates for loss or waste of food in households or for destruction or loss of nutrients during the preparation of food. Data for iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin include the amounts of those nutrients added to prepared cereals, white flour, and bread.

COMMODITY REVIEWS

Meats

Large supplies of meat are in prospect from now through next year. There will be enough to permit U. S. civilians to maintain their consumption of meat very close to the recent high rate.

During the remainder of 1955, meat consumption is expected to be moderately larger than a year earlier. Most of the increase will be in pork. Retail meat prices probably will continue to average lower than last fall, primarily because of the decline in the price of pork.

The prospective heavier supplies of meat this fall reflect mainly increased marketings from the 9 percent larger spring pig crop this year than in 1954. Beef output may be up a little from last fall, mostly because more heavier-weight, grain-fed cattle will be marketed. On October 1, 19 percent more cattle were on feed than a year earlier. Little change is likely in the production of veal, and there might be less lamb and mutton, especially if farmers retain a larger number of lambs for feeding this winter.

More meat may be available for consumption this fall than production prospects alone would indicate. Last fall, the net movement of pork into storage by December 31 totaled over 230 million pounds. Expectations are for a reduced into-storage movement at the same time this year because of the large slaughter and low prices in prospect. In addition, military purchases of pork and net imports during October-December may be no larger than a year earlier. To relieve the market of some of the excess supplies, the U. S. Department of Agriculture plans to purchase up to 170 million pounds of pork from now till next August for distribution to School Lunch and other eligible outlets.

Meat will continue in abundant supply next year, perhaps enough to allow civilians nearly to match the 161 pounds per capita consumption rate estimated for 1955. Retail prices of meat will likely average about the same next year as in 1955, with lower prices for pork about offsetting slight increases for the other kinds of meat.

Because of a probable slight decline in production, civilian consumption of beef next year may be somewhat lower than the record rate of 81 pounds indicated for this year. Record output in 1955 occurred because of an unusually heavy slaughter of cows and heifers. Fewer steers were marketed for slaughter than in 1954. Unless breeding herds are reduced much more next year than in 1955, more of the beef supply will come from younger animals. This, plus the prospect that the number of cattle on feed next January 1 will be close to that of last January 1, indicate that the better grades may comprise as large or larger part of the total beef supply than in 1955.

Retail prices of beef next year probably will average about the same as for 1955. Prices of Choice grade beef probably will advance from the level prevailing in the last half of 1955, but will likely remain below the high levels reached last winter.

The heavy marketings of cows and heifers in 1955 may mean a smaller calf crop and a slight reduction in production of veal next year.

Consumer supplies of lamb and mutton next year are expected to be almost as large as this year. Allowing for continued increase in the civilian population, this means that supplies per person may be a little

lower than in 1955. However, with competition from other meats likely to continue strong, retail prices of lamb and mutton probably will average little different from those of the present year.

Lamb and mutton production has been maintained during the past several years by an increase in the number of lambs saved at birth per 100 ewes, and by a slow reduction in inventories. A reversal in the downtrend in size of herds next year would mean less lamb and mutton than now anticipated.

More pork will be available next year, with most of the increase occurring during the first 6 months. Civilian consumption probably will total a pound or so higher than the 66 pounds per capita rate estimated for 1955.

Pork supplies will continue larger than a year earlier through the winter because of marketings from the large 1955 spring pig crop. Large supplies next spring are indicated from farmers' intentions of last June to have 11 percent more sows to farrow the fall pig crop. Pork supplies after mid-1956 will be about as large as in the last half of this year, depending largely on the size of the pig crop next spring. The lower returns for hogs from the 1955 crops may discourage farmers from increasing the number of sows and gilts saved to farrow the 1956 spring crop.

Fishery Products 1/

U. S. civilian consumption of fishery products during the next 6 months is expected to be at a little lower rate per person than a year earlier. Although average consumption of the fresh and frozen commodities is expected to total close to that in the same period of 1954-55, some decline is in prospect for the canned products. Retail prices of fishery products will likely average a little higher during coming months than a year earlier, in part because of higher prices for fresh and frozen shrimp and canned fishery products.

Commercial landings of fish for sale in the fresh or frozen forms will be declining seasonally from now through late winter. However, total supplies during the period probably will be about as large as a year earlier. Stocks of frozen fish and shellfish in the Continental United States on October 1 totaled 170.4 million pounds--4 percent smaller than a year earlier, but imports are expected to continue high.

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Supplies of canned fishery products during the remainder of the 1955-56 marketing year--until about next July--will be lower than a year earlier because of the smaller packs of important items in 1955. The output of canned salmon was much lower than in 1954 and the smallest in the past 30 years or more, and that of Maine sardines was down considerably. While the pack of tuna will be large in 1955, it will not equal to the record volume reached last year. Canned mackerel production probably will be slightly larger than in 1954. Domestic supplies of canned fishery products during the present marketing year will be supplemented to some extent by imports.

Of the canned fishery products consumed by U. S. civilians in recent years, salmon and tuna together have accounted for 60 to 70 percent of the total. The smaller pack of canned salmon in 1955 points to a decline in civilian consumption of this product, with the reduction likely to be more apparent in 1956 than in 1955. Canned salmon consumption has been shading downward since 1949 when it matched the 1947 postwar peak rate of 1.5 pounds per person. In 1954, it was 1.3 pounds. For canned tuna, on the other hand, supplies may not equal those of a year earlier, but they will be sufficiently large to maintain the long-time upward trend in consumption. In 1954 civilians consumed about 1.7 pounds of canned tuna per person, the highest rate of record.

Imports of major fishery products during the next few months are expected to continue high, relatively close to that of a year earlier. Receipts of fresh and frozen products from abroad may be no higher, and some decrease for the canned commodities is in prospect. Exports during the same period may be lower than in the same period of 1954-55 primarily because of smaller supplies of those types of canned fishery products which are in demand in our foreign markets.

Poultry and Eggs

Civilian consumption of chicken meat from now through the end of 1955 is expected to continue at a little higher rate per person than a year earlier, but that of eggs and turkeys probably will be about the same. Retail prices of eggs, chickens, and turkeys will likely continue above year-ago levels through December.

Egg supplies through December are expected to average substantially the same as those of a year earlier, not enough to permit a higher per capita rate of consumption by civilians. Storage supplies--though very small compared with total supplies--are much larger than at the same time last year, but production of eggs will be about the same. Retail prices of eggs in late 1955 probably will continue to decline from the season's peak of mid-September. However, the decline is likely to continue at a slower rate than in late 1954 because the reduced number of chickens now on farms probably will keep production from increasing as fast as last fall.

More chicken meat will continue to be available this fall than last. All of the increase will be from commercial broilers, since marketings of farm chickens will be much smaller. Retail prices of broilers dropped sharply in early fall, but are expected to continue near their new level--a little higher than a year earlier--through the end of 1955 despite competition from the seasonally large supplies of both red meats and turkeys.

Supplies of turkey meat this November and December will total a little smaller in tonnage than a year earlier. The number of turkeys raised this year was smaller than in 1954, but the decline was reflected in reduced marketings earlier in 1955. Thus, the number available for sale this fall is about the same as a year earlier. However, a larger proportion of the total will be the heavy-breed birds marketed at light weights. Fewer light-breed birds were raised for holiday season sale this year. With consumption per person likely to be at the same rate as in late 1954, stocks of turkey meat at the end of 1955 are expected to be smaller than a year earlier. Retail prices of turkeys probably will be steady this fall, at a somewhat higher level than last fall.

Through about the first half of 1956 egg production is expected to total about the same as a year earlier. Prices are expected to average lower in the first quarter of 1956 than in the same period this year if the marketing pattern for eggs is normal. In February and March 1955 prices rose sharply because storms and other unusual factors disrupted marketings. Prices in the spring will be influenced by the trade demand for eggs to be stored for sale later in the year. If indications next spring are that farmers intend to raise considerably more chicks for their egg-laying flocks than in 1955, this would mean larger production of eggs next fall than this fall. As a result, the into-storage movement of shell eggs next spring would be smaller and prices lower than a year earlier.

Supplies of chicken meat early in 1956 are expected to be somewhat larger than in the same part of 1955, because of the larger number of broilers being raised this fall. Commercial broilers will comprise by far the major portion of the supply. The level of output during the remainder of 1956 will depend on production costs and prices received by farmers for broilers. Continued reductions in the cost of raising broilers--effected through better chickens, better feed, and lower feed prices--suggest another small increase in the production of chickens next year. The increase will occur even if farm prices continue below the comparable 1955 levels through most of 1956.

The net effect of the above-mentioned factors on civilian per capita consumption of poultry products in 1956 appears to be that for poultry meat the consumption rate will be a little above that estimated for 1955 and for eggs a little below this year's record rate.

Dairy Products

Dairy products are expected to continue in plentiful supply through 1956, and probably will be available to consumers at retail prices averaging about the same as those of a year earlier. Civilian consumption will likely average close to the per capita rate of late 1954 and in 1955, though some slight increase may occur for fluid milk.

Although the total supply of dairy products during the remainder of this year probably will be lower than that of a year earlier, it will be more than adequate to meet anticipated domestic needs and exports. Production of milk on farms in September was 2.7 percent larger this year than last, and is expected to continue larger during the fall. But stocks of dairy products on October 1 were somewhat smaller than on the same date last year. Holdings by the Department of Agriculture, although still substantial, are somewhat smaller than on October 1, 1954. On the other hand, stocks held by the trade--though not as large as Government holdings--are up substantially from a year earlier.

Civilian per capita consumption of the major dairy products during the last quarter of 1955 is likely to be near that of a year earlier. Consumption of most of the manufactured products probably will be close to the rate of last fall, but an increase for fluid milk is likely due to the expanded scale of operations under the Special School Milk Program. Retail prices of the various manufactured dairy products will be about the same this fall as last, but those of fluid milk probably will continue a trifle higher.

Large supplies of dairy products are likely in 1956 because of heavier output, even though stocks at beginning of 1956 will total lower than a year earlier. Farm production of milk probably will show a significant increase over the 124 billion pounds likely to be produced this year. Feed will be lower priced, in larger supply, and distributed better by regions than in the past few years. Among the long-term factors which also will exert an upward tendency on milk production next year are: Gradual improvement in quality of cows, better roughages, and generally more specialization in milk production. From 1944 to 1949, the number of farmers producing milk declined an average of 3 percent annually; partial data from 1955 census indicates a similar reduction occurred in the succeeding 5-year period. The number of cows has changed little, but total milk production has increased to a new high.

Civilian per capita consumption of the various dairy products is not likely to be significantly different in 1956 from this year. Even with no change in the consumption rate, the increase in population alone would account for a two billion pound (milk equivalent) increase in total consumption of dairy products. This may about equal the anticipated gain over this year in production of milk on farms. The proportion of the milk output used in the different dairy products probably will not differ much from that indicated for 1955.

Any increase over 1955 in per capita consumption of fluid milk will result largely from expanded distribution under the Special School Milk Program. Considerably more schools are participating this year than last, since a slight change was made in the program to permit a greater reduction in the cost of milk to schools and more time was made available for additional schools to enter the program. In the 1954-55 school year, about 451 million additional half pints of milk were consumed by the children. The Special School Milk Program was authorized by provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1954, which provided for the expenditure of up to 50 million dollars per year for 2 years to increase the consumption of fluid milk by children in nonprofit schools of high school grade and lower. Under the Special School Milk Program, schools are reimbursed for a portion of the cost of the milk which they serve in excess of their normal use.

The comparisons between expected production of milk and civilian consumption of dairy products suggests that acquisitions of dairy products by the Department of Agriculture under the price-support program next year may be little different from that in 1955, and much less than in 1954.

Fats and Oils

Production of food fats and oils now is increasing seasonally, and supplies this fall and winter will be large. Apparent civilian consumption during the next several months is expected to continue at about the same rate as a year earlier. Retail prices of butter will likely average about the same as last fall and winter, but those of the other fats and oils will continue lower.

During the marketing year which began on October 1, total supplies of food fats and oils will be about as large as the record quantity available in 1954-55. Production will be up in 1955-56, but carryover stocks were much below those of a year earlier. Inventories of butter and vegetable oils on October 1 were enough smaller than a year earlier to more than offset the moderate increase reported for lard. Most of this year's carryover stocks are held commercially. Last year, the bulk was under Government ownership.

Prospects are for much larger production of lard in 1955-56 than a year earlier. The number of pigs raised in 1955 substantially exceeded the 1954 crop, and most of them will be slaughtered in 1955-56. In addition, carryover stocks of lard were up moderately. To relieve the market of the heavy supplies in prospect for 1955-56, the Department of Agriculture recently announced plans to purchase up to 30 million pounds of lard by next August for distribution under the School Lunch Program and to other eligible outlets. With lard prices likely to average lower than in 1954-55, increased domestic use of lard will tend to be encouraged, as will a step up in exports.

Production of vegetable oils through next September will be moderately above that in 1954-55. The record 1955 crop of soybeans points to a substantially larger output of soybean oil than a year earlier. The output of cottonseed oil is expected to about equal that in 1954-55. Thus, with carryover stocks substantially smaller than last year, supplies of vegetable oils in 1955-56 will be moderately lower than a year earlier, but sufficient to meet anticipated domestic needs, and to permit continued heavy exports. Retail prices of the food products of vegetable oils during 1955-56 probably will be close to those of a year earlier.

Butter production in the coming year is expected to be close to that of a year earlier. Milk production may be up noticeably. But a larger proportion will be required to maintain civilian consumption of fluid milk and the manufactured products other than butter at the 1954-55 per capita rate.

Exports of fats and oils, at a record rate in 1954-55, are expected to continue high during the current marketing year. The large movement will be encouraged by many factors, important among which are lower prices, programs of the Government which enable foreign nations to purchase our fats and oils with their own currency, and short supplies in some areas of the world.

U. S. civilian use of food fats and oils in 1956 is expected to be at the same rate (45 pounds, fat content) per person as in the two preceding years. Some increase over last year is in prospect for lard. This will about offset the small decline expected for vegetable oils.

Fruits

Somewhat more fresh and processed fruits will be available this fall and winter than last, but smaller supplies of tree nuts are indicated. Civilian consumption of fruit and fruit products during the coming months may be at a little higher rate than a year earlier. In general, retail prices of fresh deciduous fruits may be a little lower than in late 1954 and early 1955, but those of fresh grapefruit and most processed fruits are expected to be about the same. Prices of fresh oranges may be up a little from those of a year earlier.

The crop of deciduous fruits is 4 percent larger this year than last. The apple and pear crops were both a little smaller. However, production of apples was much higher in most States where an important part of the output is usually storaged for fresh market sale later in the season. The winter pear crop--also an important storaged fruit--is up considerably. Accordingly, supplies of these fruits will be somewhat heavier than a year earlier from late fall into spring. More grapes and cranberries are expected to be available this fall and winter because of the larger crops.

The volume of oranges to be harvested during the next five to six months is currently indicated to be about as large as a year earlier. Supplies for fresh market sale will be a little smaller this fall and early winter than last because of reductions in the size of the navel orange crop in California. Production of valencia oranges in Florida--marketing of which will be underway beginning about February--is expected to be a little larger than a year earlier, but supplies for fresh use may not be up as much as production because a larger proportion may be processed. The new grapefruit crop is 9 percent larger than last year, with most of the increase expected in Florida. A large part of this gain will likely be processed. Fewer tangerines than a year earlier will be available in the coming months because of the 10 percent smaller crop in Florida this year.

Supplies of bananas in the next few months probably will be no larger than a year earlier. Thus far in 1955 receipts of bananas from abroad have been at a little lower rate than a year earlier. Although world production of bananas is increasing, no change in our import pattern from that of the past year is in prospect since domestic demand at present prices is expected to remain about the same. Bananas are among the most popular of the fresh fruits consumed in the United States, exceeded only by oranges and apples.

Tree nuts will be in less plentiful supply than in 1954-55 primarily because of the substantially smaller crops of almonds and filberts. The 1955 crops of walnuts and pecans are about as large as those harvested in 1954. Because of spring freezes, this is the second successive year that the pecan crop is relatively small. Higher retail prices than in 1954-55 seem likely for all of these tree nuts during the current marketing year. Imports of cashews may be smaller in 1955-56 than a year earlier, but those of Brazil nuts are expected to be larger.

Record supplies of canned fruits will be available during 1955-56. The packs of apricots, sweet cherries and sour cherries are larger this year than last, and some increase is indicated for canned peaches. Production of canned apples, applesauce, and pears are expected to be smaller. Continued large shipments of canned pineapple from Hawaii are expected during the next several months.

Plentiful supplies of canned fruit juices are in prospect through most of 1956. Production is expected to be at least as large as in 1954-55 because of the heavier packs of canned grapefruit and blended citrus in prospect, but the carryover of citrus juices--the most important component of the canned fruit juice group--was considerably smaller this year. Receipts of canned pineapple juice from Hawaii this fall and winter probably will be about as large as a year earlier. Per capita consumption of canned fruit juices in 1955-56 is expected to be about 13 pounds, not greatly different from the year-ago rate.

Frozen fruits and berries will be in moderately larger supply through spring 1956 than a year earlier because of the slightly larger quantity carried over in stocks from last year's packs and the increased volume produced in 1955. Frozen fruit juice supplies may be relatively close to those of a year earlier. Carryover stocks of frozen fruit juices were somewhat smaller this year than last and the pack may be up a little from that in 1954-55. The size of the juice pack in 1955-56 will depend in large part on the volume of orange concentrate produced. Civilian consumption of frozen fruit products during the current marketing year is expected to be at a somewhat higher rate per person than 1954-55, with increases probable both for the frozen fruits and berries group and the frozen juices.

In total, more dried fruit will be available in 1955-56, than in the preceding marketing year. Larger supplies of raisins and apricots are in prospect, but less prunes and other dried fruits. Even though there will be fewer dried prunes to be marketed this year, supplies are expected to be somewhat larger than anticipated domestic needs. For raisins, larger supplies will be available for export than in 1954-55. U. S. civilian consumption of dried fruits in 1955-56 is expected to be a little over 4 pounds per person, about the same rate as in recent years.

Vegetables

Supplies of fresh vegetables will be substantially smaller this fall than last. Potatoes and sweetpotatoes will be much more plentiful through the winter months than a year earlier, and supplies of processed vegetables probably will be about as large. Retail prices of fresh vegetables during the fall are expected to average somewhat higher than in late 1954, but those of potatoes and sweetpotatoes will be lower. Prices of processed vegetables through next spring will likely average close to those of a year earlier.

Production of vegetables for fresh market sale this fall is expected to be about 7 percent smaller than last fall. Among the major items, declines are indicated for Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn and green peppers. These reductions more than balance the increases indicated for snap beans, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, and tomatoes. The lettuce and cucumber crops are expected to be as large as last fall. Fewer onions will continue to be available during the next several months than a year earlier--and at higher prices--because of the reduced late-summer crop, which is the major source of supplies marketed through the fall and winter.

With demand for fresh vegetables next year expected to be close to that in 1955, farmers probably will be encouraged to plant as large an acreage to these commodities as they did this year. With an acreage equal to this year's and normal growing conditions, commercial production of vegetables for fresh market sale would be larger than in 1955, when adverse weather reduced production.

In total, supplies of processed vegetables through about mid-1956 probably will be close to those of a year earlier. The 1955 packs of both canned and frozen vegetables are expected to turn out a little larger than those in 1954, but carryover stocks were lower at the beginning of the present marketing year. Among the canned commodities, the distribution of supplies among individual important vegetables will be better than in the 1954-55 marketing year. Canned snap beans and sweet corn probably will not be as plentiful in 1955-56 as a year earlier, but supplies of several other canned vegetables will be up somewhat. With supplies substantially the same but civilian population larger, consumption of processed vegetables during 1955-56 may be a little below the rate of a year earlier. Retail prices of processed vegetables are expected to at least equal those in 1954-55. This would encourage larger packs in 1956.

Considerably heavier supplies of potatoes will be available this fall and winter because of the much larger late-season crops grown in eastern and western States. Civilian consumption of potatoes probably will be up a little from that of a year earlier, with the increase for the processed food products--mainly potato chips--supplementing consumer use of fresh potatoes. With prices likely to continue lower than for the 1954 late crop, in the coming months farmers will move substantially larger quantities of potatoes for processing into starch and flour or for use as livestock feed. A diversion payment program is in effect for potatoes moving into these nonfood uses. The expected low farm prices for 1955 late-crop potatoes in general probably will tend to discourage any increase in acreage next year in a number of producing areas.

Due to record high yields, the 1955 sweetpotato crop promises to exceed by about 19 percent the short crop of 1954, and be the largest since 1950. With larger supplies available, retail prices during the next several months are expected to average well below those of a year earlier and per capita consumption probably will be up a little. On October 27, the Department of Agriculture announced the intention to purchase 1955-crop sweetpotatoes in order to assist growers in marketing their abundant supplies. The quantities so purchased will be distributed through the School Lunch and other eligible outlets.

The acreage planted to sweetpotatoes in 1956 will to some extent be influenced by prices received by growers for this year's crop. With an acreage equal to that planted in 1955 and average yields by States, production next year would be a little below that of this year.

Larger beginning stocks plus a big increase in production add up to substantially larger supplies of dry edible beans in the 1955-56 marketing season than in the preceding season. Civilian consumption is expected to remain about the same as in 1954-55, but exports probably will be larger. The heavier supplies are expected to result in lower average prices than in the 1954-55 season.

Extremely low yields are expected to result in a 19 percent smaller crop of dry field peas this year than last, and the smallest since 1940. In addition, carryover stocks were lower than at the beginning of the 1954-55 marketing year. However, with exports likely to be much smaller than a year earlier because of better crop conditions in a number of European countries, supplies in 1955-56 are expected to be fully adequate to maintain consumption of dry peas by civilians at about the same rate per person as in 1954-55. Prices in 1955-56 are expected to average above the high level of the previous year.

Cereal Food Products

Civilian per capita consumption of cereal food products is expected to be about the same as in 1955. With marketing charges likely to remain fairly close to the recent level, retail prices of cereal foods next year will likely average about the same as this year.

The grain crops are somewhat larger this year than last, according to October 1 indications. The wheat crop is moderately smaller and the rice crop down substantially, but these reductions are much more than offset by the increases in production of corn, oats, barley and rye. In addition, carryover stocks in 1955 were record large. Thus, supplies of grains in 1955-56 will be more than sufficient to meet anticipated total domestic needs and exports.

Wheat production this year is estimated at 916 million bushels, 6 percent smaller than the 1954 crop and 21 percent below the 1944-53 average. However, with the carryover this year record large at 1,021 million bushels, supplies of wheat in 1955-56 will exceed slightly those of a year earlier. This supply is much larger than domestic food, feed and seed needs, and anticipated exports. Thus, a record large carryover is in prospect next July 1, when the current marketing year ends.

Wheat prices in 1955 have been lower than a year earlier. However with processing and distribution costs higher than in 1954, the retail price of flour is up slightly and that of bread about 2 percent.

Rice will be in record supply in 1955-56. This year's crop is estimated at 15 percent smaller than that in 1954, but carryover stocks were at a peak. The build-up in stocks during 1954-55 in large part reflected the decline in exports. A large portion of the carryover this year was owned by the Department of Agriculture. With civilian per capita consumption of rice likely to be at the 1954-55 rate and the population larger, some increase in the total quantity used domestically as food is in prospect. However, a heavy volume of exports would still be necessary in 1955-56 in order to effect any reduction in stocks between the beginning and end of the year.

Supplies of corn for 1955-56 are now estimated at a record level of over 4.1 billion bushels, 257 million bushels above the supply of last year. This would be fully ample to meet all domestic and export requirements and leave another big carryover into 1956-57.

The per capita consumption of cornmeal, corn sirup and cornstarch has been stable in recent years, while corn sugar consumption has declined. Although the price of corn has declined during the past year, average retail prices of cornmeal and corn flakes were at about the same level in September as a year earlier, and probably will not change much in 1955-56.

Oat and barley supplies also are very large this year and sufficient for all domestic and export requirements, including the small quantities of these grains used domestically for food. Prices of the two grains are substantially lower this fall than a year earlier, but the average retail price of rolled oats is a little higher, and the wholesale price of malt only slightly lower.

Exports of corn, oats, and barley--though relatively small in terms of our total supplies--have been substantially larger this past summer than a year earlier, and are expected to continue larger in 1955-56. On the other hand, imports of these grains which were lower last year than in 1953-54, probably will not increase in 1955-56.

Sugar

The domestic demand for sugar has been strong for most of 1955, and is expected to continue at a high level during the remainder of the year. To supply the strong current demand, the Secretary of Agriculture recently raised the sugar marketing quota for 1955 from 8,200 thousand tons (raw value) to 8,400 thousand tons.

Deliveries of sugar by primary distributors through September totaled 6,504 thousand tons, raw value, 4 percent larger than in the corresponding period of 1954. Per capita consumption in 1955 is estimated at 95 pounds (refined basis), about the same as last year. Retail prices of sugar as reported by BLS have been very stable so far this year, averaging 10.4 cents per pound, a tenth of a cent under 1954. Primary distributors have recently raised their prices 10 cents per 100 pounds, to $8.65, the same as in the last quarter of 1954.

Domestic supplies of sugar in 1956 will be initially established by the marketing quota to be announced next month by the Secretary of Agriculture. In setting the quota, the Secretary must take into account a number of factors, including the anticipated level of sugar distribution during the year ending October 31, 1955, expected stocks at the end of December, and the level of sugar prices.

Acreage allotments on the crops of sugar beets and sugarcane continue in effect in 1956. These restrictions are being maintained in an attempt to keep domestic cane and beet sugar production in line with their marketing quotas.

WORLD FOOD SITUATION 1/

Early prospects for 1955-56 indicate that world output of major foods may be slightly larger than a year earlier and may exceed the previous record output of 1953-54. Since carryover stocks were large, supplies are expected to be sufficient to permit some increase in consumption of a number of foods and a continued build-up of total stocks during 1955-56. This would be similar in several respects to the situation in 1953-54. Last year, world consumption of food was at about the same level as production and stocks of many staple foods were about as large at the end of 1954-55 as at the beginning.

Production of nearly all major food products in 1955-56 will be larger than a year earlier, if early crop indications are fulfilled. Early forecasts of the 1955 bread grain crops--wheat and rye--indicate a total harvest of about 265 million short tons, about the same as the previous record crop of 1953 and nearly 5 percent above that of 1954. In Canada conditions for the wheat crop have been much better than a year ago and production is expected to be about 65 percent above 1954. Crop conditions were also more favorable for wheat this year in the Eastern European countries as a whole, and in the Soviet Union. In these areas crops are substantially larger than last year and the total output of wheat there may be the largest for any postwar year. Throughout the rest of Europe the wheat crop is about as large as a year ago but the quality is much better. France again will have substantial quantities for export, and Italy with a crop considerably larger than in 1954 will require less imports. The main European countries reporting smaller crops than a year ago are Portugal, Spain, the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom and Ireland. Asia's wheat crop is nearly as large as in the preceding year, and declines in prospect for Africa and South America are partly offset by prospective increases in Australia.

Early conditions for the 1955-56 rice crop have been more favorable than those for the preceding crop, but total production will depend to some extent on final weather conditions in India where floods were prevalent during the early part of the growing season. Japan has reported a record rice crop and conditions in several other Southeast Asia countries indicate some increases over last year. Production in the United States was reduced about 15 percent because of the marked decline in acreage due to acreage allotments, but output continued at high levels in Europe despite burdensome surpluses which have accumulated in some countries. The South American countries harvested a record crop of rice in early 1955 and another large acreage is indicated for 1956.

1/ Prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Supplies of feed grain will again be large, favoring a continued high level of production of livestock products in 1955-56. The combined world production of barley and oats will be the largest in any postwar period as sharp increases in North America offset apparent declines in other areas, especially an indicated reduction in the Soviet Union. Early indications are that the world corn crop in 1955 will be about 10 percent above last year's, and if they are borne out for the Southern Hemisphere, it will be the largest crop ever harvested. Most of the increase is in North America, Eastern Europe, and the USSR.

World sugar production continues at a high level despite the attempt of some surplus producers to curtail production. The first estimate of sugar beet production, 85 percent of which is in Europe and the USSR, was estimated at 4 percent above last year due largely to more favorable crop conditions in the USSR and Eastern European countries. Turkey, Iran, and Japan are also harvesting larger crops, but production in both Canada and the U. S. is lower due to declines in acreage. Sugar supplies (production plus stocks at the beginning of 1955) were at record levels, and although consumption increased, another large carryover appears likely at the beginning of 1956. In Cuba, however, some reduction in stocks is anticipated largely because of the sale of 500,000 tons to USSR during 1955.

World production of edible fats and oils is gradually increasing and probably will be up slightly in 1955-56 from a year earlier due to larger peanut and soybean crops and increased lard production. During the past year, however, world consumption and world trade were at high levels and the stocks of edible oils have been reduced to manageable proportions in nearly all areas. It, therefore, appears that production during the following year will be about in line with the upward trend of consumption in the past few years.

Meat production has increased during 1955 and the high level of production will likely be maintained next year. World pork production this year has continued to increase in almost every pork-producing country. A moderate increase in output is expected in 1956 although only a few of the major pork-producing countries are likely to maintain production at a higher level than in 1955.

World cattle and sheep numbers are at record levels and were still increasing in 1955, indicating moderate further expansion in the supplies of beef and mutton during the coming year.

Dry weather during the late summer months reduced the output of milk--and, thus, dairy products--in many parts of Europe, Canada, and New Zealand. But with liberal feed supplies in all areas except New Zealand, this reduction in output may be short lived and total production during 1955-56 may be about as large as in the previous season.

World trade in food products is likely to continue at a high level during the coming year. Some important deficit areas such as Japan and Yugoslavia are harvesting considerably larger crops than a year ago and will need less food imports. Also, Turkey who was a wheat importer last year will have an exportable surplus this year. Europe's wheat supply is of somewhat better quality than a year ago, which may reduce their wheat requirements. On the other hand, industrial activity is continuing at a high level in all parts of the world, resulting in a continued active demand for food products particularly the non-staple products such as meat, dairy products, and fruits.

Several surplus producing areas are putting on an active drive to dispose of their exportable supplies through special trade agreements, price concessions, and other inducements. This promises severe competition for existing markets and will probably stimulate active world trade in food products.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT 1/

Part II.- Direct Distribution

Millions of pounds of Government-owned surplus foods are being moved into consumption channels under the Department of Agriculture's surplus food donation program--called Direct Distribution. This program does not include the Special School Milk Program, which will be discussed in a future issue of the National Food Situation.

Last year, over one billion pounds of surplus foods were made available to eligible recipients. Slightly less than one-half the total, 492.4 million pounds, was distributed to domestic recipients--including nonprofit school lunch programs, charitable institutions and hospitals, needy Indians on reservations, needy persons living at home, and for disaster relief. The remaining amount, 546.2 million pounds, was made available for use by needy persons overseas.

These are but a few of the many ways surplus foods are being made available to improve the diets of groups in this country and abroad. The distribution of these surplus foods involves the cooperation of many groups. In this country, agencies of the various States and United States Territories have important responsibilities for the program. Distribution to needy persons in friendly countries overseas is accomplished through our private welfare agencies and such international organizations as the International Red Cross and the United Nation's Children Fund.

1/ This article prepared by Isabelle M. Kelley, Food Distribution Division, AMS, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture carries out its surplus food donation program under two authorities--Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, and Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949. The Section 32 legislation provides a permanent annual appropriation to the Department for the general purpose of expanding domestic and foreign markets for agricultural commodities. When the supply situation for a commodity is so large that direct Government assistance is necessary to avoid acute distress to producers, the Department may use Section 32 funds to make a surplus-removal purchase at the time of peak marketings. The supplies acquired under such a Section 32 purchase are donated to nonprofit school lunch programs and to needy groups within this country. Under the usual Section 32 purchase, the commodities acquired do not move into Government inventory. Instead, they are shipped directly to States for redistribution to eligible recipients.

The second donation authority--Section 416--is concerned with commodities that have been acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under price-support programs. If such commodities cannot be sold or bartered for strategic materials, they may be donated to school lunch programs and other eligible outlets in this country. Any quantities in excess of the needs of eligible domestic users, may be made available to needy persons overseas--through the facilities of private and international organizations.

Under Section 416, last year, manufactured dairy products, shortening, and cottonseed oil were available for both domestic and foreign donations and rice was made available for domestic donation in January 1955. Several additional commodities were donated for domestic use as the result of Section 32 programs in 1954-55, including canned beef and dry beans. The canned beef distributed represented carryover supplies from a surplus-removal purchase made in the latter part of 1953 when drought conditions in the Southwest had created a problem in the orderly marketing of the fall run of cattle.

The data in Table 5 summarize by commodities the quantity of foods moved into eligible outlets under Direct Distribution Programs during the past year.

Distribution of surplus foods to domestic users is accomplished under a plan whereby the Federal and State Governments share responsibility for the delivery of the donated foods to the ultimate user. The Department of Agriculture arranges for and finances any necessary reprocessing or packaging of the commodities and pays the cost of transporting these commodities to central receiving locations within the various States. At this point, States take over responsibility. Operating under an agreement with the Department, they are responsible for all phases of distribution within the State.

Table 5.- Quantity of surplus foods moved under Direct Distribution Programs, fiscal year 1955 1/

Commodity	Distribution for		
	Domestic use	Foreign use	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Dairy products:			
Butter	109.2	78.1	187.3
Butter oil	---	2/49.7	2/49.7
Cheese	84.8	87.7	172.5
Dry milk	79.4	276.3	355.7
Total	273.4	491.8	765.2
Canned beef	38.0	---	38.0
Dry beans	75.0	---	75.0
Rice	22.7	---	22.7
Shortening and cottonseed oil	71.8	54.4	126.2
Other foods	11.5	---	11.5
Grand total	492.4	546.2	1,038.6

1/ Preliminary. Data on foreign use represent export liftings from U. S. ports.

2/ In butter equivalent.

The State distributing agencies are responsible for the certification of eligible recipients, according to standards established by the Department of Agriculture. For example, school lunch programs must be operated on a non-profit basis, institutions and hospitals must be non-profit and exempt from Federal income tax, and persons in family units receiving commodities must be determined to be "needy" by a public welfare agency.

State agencies order commodities from the Department and arrange for the acceptance of the shipments at receiving points and for their delivery to the final users. In addition, the State agency is responsible for over-all supervision of the program to insure that the commodities are effectively used by recipients and that waste or resale into commercial channels is avoided. Traditionally, the groups eligible to receive commodities operate on limited food budgets and the donated commodities provide an important supplement to the foods they normally are able to purchase. However, to assure that these commodity donations do not interfere with regular food markets, recipient agencies must agree not to reduce their normal expenditures for food because of the receipt of donated foods.

The system for handling donated foods varies from State to State. Some States maintain and operate their own warehouses for the storage and distribution of commodities or use the storage facilities of State or county institutions; others rent commercial storage facilities. Other States have established a system whereby most of the commodities are delivered directly from railway cars to recipient agencies. In some instances, the State agency arranges for the delivery of commodities to recipients, using their own or commercial facilities. In other cases, recipient agencies make their own arrangements for delivery of the commodities allocated to them.

During 1954-55, over 15 million persons in this country benefited from the distribution of surplus foods, including 11 million school children and over one million persons in charitable institutions. The number of persons in family units receiving commodities increased considerably last year, as more States made use of these commodities to assist more needy persons, including the victims of drought and other natural disasters, recipients of welfare assistance, and the unemployed, particularly in coal mining and railroad industry centers. Last year, the peak month of participation in the family distribution program was March, when 3.2 million needy persons actually received commodities out of a total of about 3.5 million persons that had been certified by State agencies as eligible to participate. By the end of the fiscal year, however, the number of persons participating had dropped to about 2.5 million.

In the case of surplus commodities made available for the relief of needy persons overseas, the Department of Agriculture underwrites costs involved in delivering the commodities to ports of export. The cost of ocean freight may be paid by the private welfare agency sponsoring the program or the recipient country may provide funds or furnish ships to move the foods overseas. However, the bulk of the ocean freight charges are financed by funds made available under the Mutual Security Act.

All United States private welfare agencies wishing to participate in the Section 416 foreign donation program must register with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid. This is a citizens' group established to coordinate private foreign-aid efforts with those carried out under the Mutual Security Act. In addition, before commodities are made available to a private welfare agency, the Department of Agriculture and the International Cooperation Administration review the agency's plan for distributing the surplus foods. In this manner, assurance is provided that the donations will not interfere with regular commercial sales and that the proposed programs of the various private agencies do not overlap or duplicate one another.

Over a half-billion pounds of surplus foods were made available for overseas use last year and were distributed by 19 private welfare agencies to needy persons in 57 foreign countries. The governments of

recipient countries arrange for duty-free entry of the donated foods and some help to pay the cost of transporting the foods to local distribution points. However, an American citizen representing the sponsoring welfare agency supervises the distribution of these donated foods and all packages indicate that the food is a gift from the people of the United States.

Until recently, legislation did not permit the distribution of cereal products processed from Government stocks of grain. The Section 416 authority provides that the Department may underwrite the cost of reprocessing commodities but does not provide for original processing, such as processing wheat into flour and corn into meal. Moreover, grains have a long storage life and there has not been a danger of loss of the CCC inventories.

Public Law 311, passed by the Congress in August 1955, provides for the use of Section 32 funds, through June 30, 1957, to make wheat flour and cornmeal available for use by needy persons upon the request of the Governor of any State. Currently, 32 States and Alaska are participating in the program.

The long-range solution to the problem of surpluses lies in continuing efforts to expand food markets and to better adjust production to market needs. In the meantime, under Direct Distribution, an opportunity is available to constructively use foods that are surplus in the commercial market and to improve dietary levels both in this country and abroad.

NUTRIENTS CONTRIBUTED BY MAJOR FOOD GROUPS-- A REFLECTION OF CHANGING FOOD HABITS 1/

An analysis of the nutrients contributed by the major food groups to a large extent reflects the effects of changes in food consumption patterns which have occurred in the United States in the past 20 years. The daily energy value (calories) available from the annual per capita quantity of food consumed by civilians since 1935-39 has declined slightly. (See table 4, page 6.) However, there have been important changes in the sources of calories. Fats and carbohydrates have shifted in importance as sources, with the former increasing and the latter decreasing. The third source of energy, protein, has increased steadily from 90 grams per person per day in 1935-39 to 97 grams in 1955 but contributes about the same proportion of total calories--11-12 percent--now as in the prewar period. During the past 20 years, animal sources of protein have increased in importance, while that from vegetable sources--such as cereal products--has decreased, as data in table 6 shows.

1/ This article was prepared by Eloise Cofer, Household Economics Research Branch, ARS.

Table 6.- Basic sources of protein from food consumed per person by U. S. civilians in selected years

Year	Protein from			
	Animal sources		Vegetable sources	
	Grams per person per day	Percent of total protein	Grams per person per day	Percent of total protein
1935-39	50	56	40	44
1947-49	59	63	35	37
1955 (prel.)	65	66	32	34

The food energy available from fat has increased steadily since 1935-39, when an average of 132 grams of fat per person per day was available. The estimated food consumption per capita in 1955 provided 148 grams. This increase means that 41 percent of the total calories is now contributed by fat whereas in 1935-39, the figure was 36 percent. While it is not known just how much of the fat that enters into kitchens is actually eaten --for example, fat on meat and fat left from frying--it seems likely that so large an increase in use of fat means some increase in the amount actually eaten.

It is interesting that the percentage of fat from animal sources is not significantly different in 1955 from the average for 1935-39, as indicated in the following table:

Table 7.- Basic sources of fat from food consumed per person by U. S. civilians in selected periods

Year	Fat from			
	Animal sources		Vegetable sources	
	Grams per person per day	Percent of total fat	Grams per person per day	Percent of total fat
1935-39	97	73	35	27
1947-49	104	74	36	26
1955 (prel.)	104	70	44	30

The fats and oils food group, which includes both animal and vegetable fat, is not as large a factor percentagewise in 1955 as it was in the prewar period (table 8). The actual increase in dietary fat in the past 20 years has come from other food groups, chiefly meat, poultry, fish and eggs. Within the fats and oils group itself, the big changes include a decline in butter consumption from a yearly average of 16.8 pounds per capita during 1935-39 to 9.2 pounds in 1955, and an increase in margarine consumption from 2.8 pounds per capita per year in the prewar period to 8.3 pounds in 1955. In part this shift explains why the proportion of total dietary fat from animal sources was a little lower in 1955 than in 1935-39.

The net decline in the consumption rate of table fats has partly resulted from the decrease in per capita use of some of the foods with which people serve these fats, such as bread, other baked goods and potatoes.

Per capita consumption figures show an increased availability of dairy products (excluding butter) which might lead one to suppose that this would increase the percentage of dietary fat from this food group. However, percentagewise this group has remained quite steady in its position as a source of dietary fat (16 to 17 percent of the total) during the past 20 years, reaching a high during the 1947-49 period. During these two decades the percentages of protein and calcium contributed by this group have increased, chiefly due to the greater use of nonfat solids in relation to milk fat.

The calories from carbohydrates come chiefly from grain products and sugars. The flour and cereal products group continues as the biggest single source of carbohydrate, providing 38 percent of the total in 1955. The difference between this and the sugars and sirups group has narrowed until there is a spread of only 5 percentage points in 1955 (table 8). In 1935-39, this difference was 13.2 percentage points. Carbohydrate now supplies only 47 percent of the dietary calories compared to about 53 percent in 1935-39.

While the relationships we have been discussing relate to the nutrients available from national averages of per capita food consumption per year, data from family food consumption surveys verify these changes. Consumer purchases studies made in 1936 showed 11, 36, and 53 percent of the total calories to be from protein, fat, and carbohydrate, respectively. Nutrients calculated from the national average of civilian per capita food consumption in 1935-39 are identical. In the spring of 1952 a food consumption survey of rural families in the North Central region of the United States showed that 12 percent of total calories came from protein, 43 percent from fat, and 45 percent from carbohydrate. In 1955, 12 percent of the calories in the national average civilian consumption of food came from protein, 41 percent from fat, and 47 percent from carbohydrate.

Corresponding to these changes in the percentage distribution of protein, fat, and carbohydrate among the food groups are modifications in the mineral and vitamin percentages for the groups. Milk products (excluding butter) have always been the chief source in the food supply of calcium and riboflavin. Due to the increase in consumption per person, dairy products other than butter now provide 5 percentage points more of the total calcium than in 1935. While these dairy products remain the major source of riboflavin, on a percentage basis they have declined somewhat since before World War II. Bread and other cereal products now provide a much greater proportion of the riboflavin than in 1935-39 because of enrichment.

Within the 20 year period being considered, bread and cereal enrichment has also resulted in a decrease in the relative importance of other food groups as contributors to the iron and B vitamins of the food supply (table 8).

The per capita vitamin A value computed from average civilian consumption of food is now about 5 percent smaller than before the war. (See table 4.) Foods from animal sources provided 32 percent of the vitamin A value of per capita food consumption in 1935-39, and 36 percent in 1955. Part of the relative increase in importance of animal products as a source of this vitamin resulted from the sharp decline in the consumption of sweetpotatoes, a vegetable rich in vitamin A value. In 1935-39 the apparent per capita consumption of this vegetable was 18 pounds; in 1955 7 pounds were available for civilian use. This decrease in consumption represents a loss of about 1,000 I. U. vitamin A value per capita per day. However, increased consumption of such vegetables as carrots and broccoli has partly offset this loss in vitamin A.

The citrus fruit and tomato group has maintained its lead as chief contributor of ascorbic acid since the 1935-39 period. Table 8 indicates how this group has increased in relative importance as the consumption of potatoes and sweetpotatoes has declined. If cooking losses were deducted the relative importance of the citrus fruit and tomato group would appear even greater.

Folic acid, one of the B-vitamins, is the most widely distributed of the nutrients calculated. It is the only one for which in 1955 as many as 5 different food groups contributed 10 percent or more of the total supply.

Table 8.- Percentage of total nutrients contributed by major food groups in selected periods 1/

Food group	Food energy	Protein	Fat	Carbohydrate	Calcium	Iron	Vitamin A value	Thiamine	Riboflavin	Niacin	Folic acid	Ascorbic acid
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Section a. Average 1935-39												
Dairy products, excluding butter	11.4	22.1	16.2	5.8	70.2	3.4	11.0	12.2	49.0	3.5	2.3	5.2
Eggs	2.0	5.7	3.5	.1	2.3	7.5	5.5	2.7	6.1	.2	1.7	0
Meat, poultry, and fish	10.6	26.4	20.1	2/	2.9	24.1	7.2	24.8	17.0	43.9	13.9	1.0
Fats and oils, including pork fat cuts and butter	19.1	1.8	52.6	.1	.7	1.0	8.7	4.4	1.0	2.0	.2	0
Dry beans and peas, nuts, and soya flour	2.9	5.6	2.9	2.6	3.2	8.6	2/	8.9	2.4	7.8	18.1	.2
Potatoes and sweetpotatoes	4.0	3.2	.2	6.8	2.2	7.3	19.5	10.6	3.2	10.1	7.6	22.0
Citrus fruit and tomatoes	1.0	1.0	.2	1.7	2.0	3.4	8.3	4.0	1.8	2.9	4.5	26.4
Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables	1.1	2.6	.2	1.7	5.7	7.4	29.4	6.2	5.2	4.5	24.3	27.0
Other vegetables and fruit	4.0	2.4	.6	7.4	4.2	8.8	9.8	6.8	5.3	6.2	9.1	18.2
Flour and cereal products	27.8	28.7	2.5	43.2	4.5	18.4	.6	18.9	7.6	17.8	18.3	0
Sugar and sirups	15.6	0	0	30.0	1.4	5.8	0	2/	.3	.3	0	2/
Cocoa	.5	.5	1.0	.6	.7	4.3	2/	.5	1.1	.8	0	0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Section b. Average 1947-49												
Dairy products, excluding butter	13.5	24.7	17.9	7.4	73.8	3.5	12.9	10.8	46.0	3.3	3.0	5.7
Eggs	2.6	7.0	4.2	.1	2.7	8.2	7.1	2.6	6.4	.2	2.2	0
Meat, poultry, and fish	12.6	29.2	22.2	2/	2.5	24.1	8.7	22.6	16.1	41.9	16.6	1.2
Fats and oils, including pork fat cuts and butter	19.2	2.1	48.9	.1	.6	1.2	7.9	4.1	1.0	2.0	.3	0
Dry beans and peas, nuts, and soya flour	2.8	4.9	3.0	2.3	2.6	6.5	2/	5.9	1.8	6.1	16.4	.2
Potatoes and sweetpotatoes	3.3	2.6	.1	6.1	1.5	5.3	11.6	6.7	2.2	7.0	6.1	17.6
Citrus fruit and tomatoes	1.3	1.2	.2	2.5	2.1	3.5	9.2	3.8	1.7	2.9	5.5	32.7
Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables	1.2	2.6	.2	1.9	5.3	6.5	33.0	4.8	4.3	3.7	25.2	25.6
Other vegetables and fruit	3.9	2.4	.6	7.7	3.8	7.1	9.2	4.9	4.3	5.2	9.5	17.0
Flour and cereal products 3/	23.8	22.9	1.9	39.7	3.4	25.9	.4	33.5	15.2	26.9	15.2	0
Sugar and sirups	15.4	0	0	31.6	1.1	4.7	0	2/	.2	.2	0	2/
Cocoa	.4	.4	.8	.6	.6	3.5	2/	.3	.8	.6	0	0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Section c. 1955 4/												
Dairy products, excluding butter	13.5	24.9	16.9	7.8	74.9	3.7	13.2	11.1	46.4	3.3	3.0	6.1
Eggs	2.9	7.5	4.7	2/	3.0	9.1	8.3	2.9	7.0	.2	2.2	0
Meat, poultry, and fish	13.9	32.2	23.6	2/	2.7	27.2	9.8	23.6	17.3	46.6	17.9	1.3
Fats and oils, including pork fat cuts and butter	20.3	2.0	49.3	2/	.7	1.0	9.3	4.1	1.0	2.0	2/	0
Dry beans and peas, nuts, and soya flour	2.8	4.9	2.7	2.6	2.7	6.9	2/	6.5	1.8	5.9	17.2	.2
Potatoes and sweetpotatoes	3.0	2.3	2/	5.7	1.3	4.7	8.7	6.2	1.9	6.2	5.2	16.7
Citrus fruit and tomatoes	1.3	1.1	2/	2.6	1.8	3.2	9.0	3.7	1.5	2.7	5.2	33.1
Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables	1.1	2.3	2/	1.8	4.7	6.3	31.9	4.5	4.0	3.4	24.7	24.9
Other vegetables and fruit	3.8	2.4	.7	7.8	3.8	6.9	9.4	4.9	4.1	4.9	10.4	17.6
Flour and cereal products 3/	21.6	20.0	1.4	38.1	3.1	24.2	.4	32.2	14.1	24.1	14.2	0
Sugar and sirups	15.3	2/	0	33.1	.7	3.4	0	2/	.1	.1	0	2/
Cocoa	.5	.4	.7	.5	.6	3.4	2/	.3	.8	.6	0	.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Data computed by Household Economics Research Branch, ARS, on the basis of estimates of apparent per capita consumption (retail basis), including estimates of produce of rural and urban home gardens, supplied by the Agricultural Economics Division, AMS. No deduction has been made in nutrient estimates for loss or waste of food in households or for destruction or loss of nutrients during the preparation of food.
2/ 0.05 percent or less. 3/ These percentages were derived from nutrient data which included the quantities of iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin added to prepared cereals, white flour, and bread.
4/ Preliminary.

Table 9.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1952-54, and estimates for 1955, with percentage comparisons 1/

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	Average 1947-49	1952	1953	1954	1955 preliminary 2/	1955 as a percentage of 1935-39	1955 as a percentage of 1947-49	1955 as a percentage of 1954
Meats (carcass weight)										
Beef	Mil. lb.	6,937	9,649	9,667	12,433	12,991	13,600	196	141	105
Veal	Mil. lb.	1,038	1,454	1,173	1,556	1,656	1,625	157	112	98
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	870	716	648	728	734	750	86	105	102
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil. lb.	7,337	10,281	11,547	10,063	9,952	10,900	149	106	110
Total meats	Mil. lb.	16,182	22,100	23,035	24,780	25,333	26,875	166	122	106
Fish (edible weight)										
Fresh and frozen	Mil. lb.	615	706	730	660	685	3/	---	---	---
Canned 4/	Mil. lb.	337	484	422	412	460	3/	---	---	---
Cured	Mil. lb.	74	70	68	62	62	3/	---	---	---
Total fish	Mil. lb.	1,026	1,260	1,220	1,134	1,207	1,160	113	92	96
Poultry and eggs										
Eggs	Mil.doz.	3,335	5,086	5,590	5,713	5,993	6,085	182	120	102
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	1,730	2,753	3,648	3,715	3,956	3,878	224	141	98
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	Mil. lb.	288	492	773	725	816	775	269	158	95
Dairy products										
Total milk 5/	Bil. lb.	105.9	116.3	115.6	121.4	123.7	124.4	117	107	101
Cheese 6/	Mil. lb.	673	1,160	1,170	1,345	1,383	1,355	201	117	98
Condensed and evaporated milk	Mil. lb.	2,225	3,497	3,165	2,878	2,844	2,985	134	85	105
Ice cream (product weight)	Mil. lb.	1,279	2,758	2,845	2,893	2,866	3,060	239	111	107
Fats and oils										
Butter, farm and factory (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	2,195	1,611	1,417	1,629	1,660	1,565	71	97	94
Lard 7/	Mil. lb.	1,630	2,419	2,886	2,368	2,348	2,700	166	112	115
Margarine (actual weight)	Mil. lb.	372	839	1,286	1,292	1,364	1,380	371	164	101
Shortening	Mil. lb.	1,529	1,434	1,611	1,675	1,961	1,980	129	138	101
Other edible fats and oils 8/	Mil. lb.	2,157	3,912	4,958	5,389	5,472	5,400	250	138	99
Total fats and oils (fat content) 9/	Mil. lb.	5,554	7,627	8,985	9,068	9,156	9,360	169	123	102
Fruits										
Fresh:										
Citrus	Mil. lb.	6,875	8,782	7,729	7,838	7,576	7,798	113	89	103
Apples (commercial)	Mil. lb.	4,385	3,791	3,290	3,208	3,407	3,400	78	90	100
Other (excluding melons)	Mil. lb.	4,648	4,508	4,344	4,142	3,942	3,850	83	85	98
Processed:										
Canned fruit	Mil. lb.	1,705	2,584	2,776	2,876	2,949	3,200	188	124	109
Canned fruit juices	Mil. lb.	333	2,230	1,866	1,924	2,050	1,900	571	85	93
Frozen (including juice)	Mil. lb.	106	416	1,008	1,254	1,280	1,350	1,274	325	105
Dried	Mil. lb.	1,118	1,008	918	863	805	850	76	84	106
Vegetables										
Fresh, total commercial 10/	Mil. lb.	18,565	23,041	23,649	25,066	24,902	24,500	132	106	98
Canned	Mil. lb.	4,030	6,064	7,318	7,184	6,660	6,700	166	110	101
Frozen	Mil. lb.	11/78	454	924	1,103	975	1,020	1,308	225	105
Potatoes	Mil. bu.	355	414	349	380	356	387	109	93	109
Sweetpotatoes	Mil. bu.	68	46	29	34	30	36	53	78	120
Dry edible beans 12/	Mil. lb.	1,360	1,854	1,501	1,682	1,700	1,706	125	92	100
Dry field peas 12/	Mil. lb.	229	401	238	297	308	224	98	56	73
Canned baby foods	Mil. lb.	37	469	562	666	683	700	1,892	149	102
Sugar, raw basis	1,000 short tons	1,948	2,065	2,102	2,375	2,610	2,450	126	119	94
Grains										
Wheat	Mil. bu.	759	1,251	1,299	1,169	970	916	121	73	94
Rye	Mil. bu.	44.9	23.1	16.0	18.2	23.7	28.4	63	123	120
Rice, milled	Mil. lb.	1,340	2,333	3,097	3,112	3,372	3,855	288	165	114
Corn, grain only	Mil. bu.	2,050	2,788	2,977	2,876	2,652	2,776	135	100	105
Oats	Mil. bu.	1,045	1,294	1,260	1,209	1,500	1,636	157	126	109
Barley	Mil. bu.	239	279	226	243	370	387	162	139	105
Peanuts, farmers' stock basis	Mil. lb.	1,230	2,128	1,366	1,589	1,023	1,750	142	32	171

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits on a pack year beginning year indicated; rice on a marketing year ending year indicated. 2/ Preliminary estimates based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreages and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These estimates are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1955, but they are based on such official estimates of production as are available at this time. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Board of the Department. 3/ Not available. 4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 5/ Includes farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board and an allowance for nonfarm production ranging from 2.3 billion pounds in 1935-39 down to 0.2 billion in 1955. 6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese. 7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products. 8/ Includes cottonseed, peanut, soybean, corn, edible olive, and oleo oils, oleo stock, oleostearine, and edible tallow later processed into margarine, shortening, cooking and salad oils, etc., and nonfood items. 9/ Includes butter, lard, and "other fats and oils." 10/ This series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets; includes quantities not harvested and use of a few minor vegetables for processing. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 11/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 12/ Cleaned basis.

Table 10.- Retail food prices and total consumer price index, United States, 1945-53 and 1954-55 by months

(Index numbers, 1947-49 =100)

Year and month	Meats 1/	Eggs	Dairy products 2/	Fats and oils 3/	Cereals and bakery products	Fruits and vegetables	Sugar and sweets	Beverages	All foods 4/	Consumer price index
1945	56	81	70	69	66	87	72	61	69	77
1946	69	83	86	84	76	89	81	68	79	83
1947	94	99	97	110	94	98	102	92	96	96
1948	106	102	106	108	103	100	98	100	104	103
1949	100	99	97	82	103	102	100	108	100	102
1950	105	85	96	80	104	98	102	153	101	103
1951	117	104	107	94	114	107	106	169	113	111
1952	116	95	112	79	117	117	106	170	115	114
1953	110	100	110	80	119	114	108	174	112	114
1954	108	84	106	84	122	112	110	207	112	115
Jan.	110	96	110	84	121	111	108	183	113	115
Feb.	110	94	109	83	121	108	108	190	112	115
Mar.	110	83	108	83	121	108	108	198	111	115
Apr.	110	80	105	83	121	110	108	210	112	115
May	111	77	104	84	121	115	108	217	113	115
June	111	76	103	84	121	117	109	222	113	115
July	110	82	104	84	122	120	110	225	114	115
Aug.	108	88	105	85	122	115	110	226	113	115
Sept.	107	85	106	85	123	110	111	209	112	115
Oct.	104	86	107	85	123	111	112	207	111	114
Nov.	104	83	107	83	123	110	113	200	110	115
Dec.	102	77	107	83	123	108	113	201	109	114
1955										
Jan.	102	74	106	82	123	111	113	202	109	114
Feb.	102	85	106	82	124	111	113	191	110	114
Mar.	102	86	105	82	124	112	113	187	110	114
Apr.	103	79	105	82	124	118	113	186	110	114
May	102	76	104	81	124	120	113	185	110	114
June	104	77	104	81	124	120	113	180	110	114
July	104	82	105	81	124	122	113	180	111	115
Aug.	103	93	106	82	124	111	113	180	110	114
Sept.	104	98	106	82	124	110	113	182	110	115

1/ Includes chicken and fish.
2/ Includes butter.
3/ Excludes butter.
4/ Includes only foods consumed at home.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indexes for commodity groups prior to 1953 adjusted to 1947-49 base from the published series on 1935-39 base. The Consumer Price Index revision, beginning 1953, has been described in the Monthly Labor Review.